■ Entertainment
Goodbye to whole J. Lo thing: Jenny wants to be taken seriously

■ News / A2
'Rave' info says embassies, trains, malls terror targets

■ Magazine
Celia Diaz-Laurel writes her husband's unfinished book

■ Lifestyle
Viloy Drilon orchid collection now adorns La Mesa dam EcoPark

JOB
Are you looking for career growth?

Not exactly sleeping with the enemy VAT ...

By Veh Contreras

GEN. Ivan Morris 'just lying' with adviser-ant Raoul Bina

"It's a battleplane to you," Tony the politically unskilled says kind. A-1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, PEARLS OF VIEWS

'Amazing Grace' continues to amaze as Isabela gov

By Fe Zamora

DON'T be fooled by the crutches because the woman is made of cement stuff.

When the bright-looking and polio-struck Grace Ng Padaca became Isabela governor, her achievement was considered short of amazing. By winning over Reuters Jr. is

Sunday, January 30, 2005 ● 76 pages / vol. 28 / no. 52
website: www.inq7.net

VAT faces Senate defeat

Opposition set to close ranks with GMA allies

By Veh Contreras and Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF THINGS shape up as the opposition hopes, senators will cross party lines and close ranks to shoot down the recently approved House bill raising the value-added tax to 12 percent.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is looking to four "undecided" votes from the administration bloc—Edgardo Angara, Manny Villar, Ivan o Pangilinan and Ralph Recto—to side with the 8 member opposition in quashing the controversial measure.

"We're sure, plus the administration [senators] who are against it, so I think the measure will not prosper. [In the 23-member Senate]," Enrile said yesterday in Filipino at the weekly Inday Inday Forum at Century City.

Senators had earlier promised to block the passage of the measure. Villar and Pangilinan, his colleagues in the "Nacionalista Club," had also expressed objections to a VAT increase.

Enrile also mentioned Pia Cayetano, Jinggoy Estrada and even Bong Revilla as among the other "independent-minded" senators who could be expected to join forces with the opposition on the issue.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had earlier said the majority senators were committed to pass the measure. But Enrile said yesterday, "I doubt if he can hold his others to that."

Calling his own objections to the bill, Enrile said he would "engage [in proprietary] in a frank debate."

"They have to explain why the bill that got passed was of that nature," he said, adding that he would particularly criticize the measure to the plenary debates just for having cut provisions on exempted industries or products and shielding only on the rate increase.

He likened the measure to a project that had been cast out with only its engine running and without its passenger and freight cars.

Enrile said that while he saw the need to increase government revenues, he was in favor only of "expanding the coverage" of the present 10 percent VAT.

He disputed Malacañang's line that raising the VAT to 12 percent would have "minimal" impact on the cost of goods, and said the two materials imported, rep-

CITY OF OUR AFFECTIONS. An antique street lamp, albeit a reproduction, casts a warm glow on an original square of Sta. Ursula in the ancient Walled City of Intramuros, once the "city of our affections," now restored to a living, breathing space where restaurants, cafés, the arts and history pleasures both the locals and the foreign tourists.

Editors' Note In the month of the last antigovernment narrative, 2005 is a "make or break year" for the electric power industry. This year, new capacity must be built for Mindanao, 13 percent of Napocor must be privatized, and electricity rates must be smartly reflected in our rapidly rising. There's power in the written sources.

In many ways, the key issue is public reception. Will the public, already paying high rates, accept more rate increases? To a good understanding, the issues focused up with brief out. Amount Lines, Iraq? Cairo Daily Rates, Turmoil and Routes to explore the issue—and to see if the critics is truly just scientific sense.

In Across the Nation: Edmonton sources of power ■ B
In Metro: Coping with high rates in the city ■ A
On Intel. antiquest: Complete with out of classic, plus documents

The Preventable Crisis

Enough crisis talk: Micro-hydro power plants light the way

By Marissa Mallonez
MV Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Enough of crisis talk.

Can citizens do something about electricity on their own? The example of some remote communities in the Cordillera, involving the use of micro-hydroelectricity, provides both inspiration and illumination.

Still heavily explored, micro-hydro power plants (those with 75 to 80 kW capacity) don't need big, controversial dams to operate.

In fact, a small opening on the Ipoma river in the Ingay Bontoc, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) is

Make or break year for Napocor sale

By Abigail L. Ho
Business

GOVERNMENT officials, industry executives and labor advocates alike agree on one thing. This year is a pivotal year for the energy sector's privatization program. How dangerous, however, or whether this is good or bad for the country.

"This year is the turning point for the sale of Napocor (National Power Corp.) assets," Bureau secretary general Ruben Reyes warned the other day. "But will [sale] begin or end [for consumers]."

"The year 2005 is a make or break year for this [privatization], Napocor). We have to [privatize if] more of the rest, we'll end up [generating more." Energy Secretary Vince Perez told the business and [to]. The first priority, he emphasized, was to sell the assets of Napocor and Transco, the National Transmission Co. "This is the make or break year, we cannot delay it any further."

Raphael Lotilla, who will succeed Perez at the energy department in April, noted that the "open access regime" that the government wants to implement (by 2006) to spearhead the privatization of most of Napocor's assets. "One of the requirements under the law for open access to be available in its office [so as to sell 70 percent of all of the generation assets of] IPPC. I think the country is there in that IPPC should not be in a dominant position [to] undercut the other generators."

Lotilla is currently president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Corp., or Psalm, the entity created by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) to sell Napocor.

ELECTION. Lookers of candidates for the first Iraqi elections in 50 years cover a cement barrier in front of a police station in Baghdad. The US military has increased its visibility in the streets ahead of national election today as the threat of reprisals from insurgents opposed to the democratic process has led workers to go underground.

A SECRET AFFAIR

Iraq holding elections today but do not tell anybody

BAGHDAD—Iraq is holding historic elections today but don't tell anybody.

Campaigning in most sensitive areas in the first democratic Iraqi election in more than 50 years and the first since US-led forces ousted dictator Saddam Hussein 22 months ago has been like a covert operation.

In many violence-wracked places, including neighborhoods of the capital, virtual death at the hands of insurgents fiercely opposed to democratic polls vote by the secret reward for voters, candidates and security forces alike.

The threat of reprisals has forced all those seeking to take part in the electoral process to go underground, running the risk of their campaigning—including the much-vaunted international-backed elections into an almost clandestine affair.

"I find these elections so strange. I have no knowledge of any previous elections anywhere in the world over taking place in such circumstances," said Rend Chalabi, who heads the National Democratic Party.

The locations of the polling centers were also disclosed at the last minute, and the staff shipping and setting up the electoral equipment covered their heads with keffiyehs.

"I call them the secret elections," said Rend Chalabi, a member of Iraq's governing council and one of the leading voices calling for the historic polls to be postponed until some degree of security and order restored.

About 300,000 Iraqi, American and other multinational troops and police will provide security for 5,300 polling centers.

Voters will choose a 275-member National Assembly that will draw up a new

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Security hiked around embassies

By Lolita B. Smiseverio

POLICE authorities have ordered heeded security at three foreign embassies in Metro Manila after receiving "true information" that the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front was planning to bomb these establishments.

The ambassador being targeted are those of the United States, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom, according to a memorandum circulating at the Western Police District.

The memo said the MILF and LRT told systems and several unnamed "big mafia" were also targets.

Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, stressed, however, that the information contained in the memorandum had yet to be verified.

"We're still verifying that. That is still raw information," he said in a phone interview.

Razon said he issued the memorandum on which the WPD memorandum was based on police tests in Metro Manila could strengthen security measures surrounding the threat.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, described the bomb threat as incredible.

"We have no interest whatsoever in bombing these embassies. What would we gain from this?" Kabalu said.

He said the report could be "just an effort to destroy the credibility of the MILF now that we are about to resume the peace talks."

Kabalu's call

Kabalu called on the government to investigate the issuance of the memorandum "and know the real motive."

A Muslim civil society leader, Nasser Pangalipan, dismissed the bomb threat as "poor, recycled intelligence meant to sow fear and tension, and even jeopardize the resumption of the peace talks on Feb. 5."

Negotiations with the MILF to end the decades-old separatist conflict in Mindanao are set to resume in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Feb. 5.

The talks "could be cancelled depending on the situations on the ground," said Pangalipan, secretary general of the Mindanao civil society group which was nominated by the MILF to be "observer" to the talks.

Poor intelligence

"These information are products of poor intelligence which are recycled whenever there are plans to resume the peace talks between the government and the Moro separatists," Pangalipan said.

He said reports like these only served to increase tension in the Muslim communities which are "already suffering from human rights abuses."

The Jan. 26 WPD memorandum, signed by operations head Chief Insp. Leonard Lupang, said the MILF's Special Operations Group was behind the bomb threat.

The WPD directed its operatives to conduct "target hardening" measures to ensure that the attack was thwarted.

With eyes open

Members of the mobile patrol, security escorts, reaction unit teams, foot patrol and operatives from the district offices, stations and precincts were told to keep their eyes open for possible terror suspects.

Lupang said police visibility would be stepped up around the targeted embassies and 27 checkpoints would be put up in vital areas.

Whenever terror threats arise, the WPD also increases security around each criminal areas in Muhlenberg and the Parañaque oil depot. *With a report from the PDI Abalayan Bureau and by Ellen Tordesillas*

Riyadh tightens security ahead of antiterror meet

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—The Saudi government has stepped up security as Riyadh prepares to host next week a global antiterror summit that is being dubbed as the first worldwide reinforcement against terror organizations.

The conference is expected to draw high-level representatives from the G-7 industrial countries like the United States, Britain, France, Russia and Germany.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev is expected to fly to Riyadhin join the leaders of 10 other countries.

Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, deputy political affairs counterterrorism in the foreign ministry, would not go into detail about the security preparations to be made by Muslim militants.

Nayef said that Saudi Arabia would be adding the conference almost the effect of "not raising a combat terror," said to be perpetrated by a group identified with the al-Qaida international terror network.

He said the fight against terrorism would not succeed if the countries affected were to work together.

"We all have suffered from terrorism and to face it, there should be a joint international effort," he said.

He stressed that synthesizing terrorism should not be confined to identifying individuals or groups by religion. Terror alone has no religion or nationality.

"We have to address the reasons that lead to the spread of this dangerous phenomenon," he said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Middle East Bureau*

We're not coddling CAP, says SEC chief

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has dismissed insinuations it was coddling College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) by refusing to shut down the beleaguered pre-need firm or to impose a deadline on CAP to comply with SEC requirements.

"I cannot accept that we are coddling CAP," SEC chair Lily Baria said, adding that it was up to CAP to comply voluntarily with the requirements to raise its capital and to ensure it could adequately address its cash flow problem.

An SEC oversight committee had recommended, on Sept. 30, 2004, the closure of CAP after the pre-need firm was found to be insolvent.

But the SEC is aware of observing CAP down due to the possible adverse impact on its over 760,000 planholders whose redemption depend on CAP's continued operations.

Baria had insisted that putting CAP under receivership would place thousands of planholders at the losing end.

To address its cash flow problems, CAP is negotiating a $100M million loan with Deutsche-registered bank First American Investments.

CAP also plans to raise its capital from P500 million to P6 billion through a property-for-share swap involving 2,500 hectares owned by Green Circle and Green Square Properties of the Belize group.

A note at the SEC said the valuation should be based on the fair market value of the properties. CAP submitted appraisal of the Belize group that pegged the total value of the properties at P6.5 billion.

But a SEC assessment questioned Cancio's methods in valuing the properties.

"I don't know the basis of Cancio's by-product/valuation/appraisals used in appraising the property. I had thought that the projected income that should be used would be the income that the property would earn at its present state (future rent or capital appreciation) and not based on major improvements on the property," SEC's general accountant said.

The accountant said CAP might be in serious violation of international accounting standards if it did not abide by fair market values.

CAP has already submitted to the SEC its application to swap shares for the property assets of Green Square Properties and Green Circle Properties and Resources. SEC approval of CAP's application, however, is still pending.

The two companies headed by lawyer Rosario Bimbo Santos is infusion worth billion worth of CAP shares in exchange for parcels of land in Baler, Aurora, near Dingalan Bay. CAP said the properties had clean titles.

Calendar of festivals and events

FEBRUARY: NATIONAL ARTS MONTH 2005

I ♥ PHILIPPINES
#1 in my list
WOWPHILIPPINES

House bill filed giving comfort women ₱5M each

A TOTAL of 110 surviving comfort women said each got P100,000 under proposed legislation that would allow the government to advance the payments to them while their legal battle for compensation from Japan is nearing resolution.

Northeast City Rep. Rolex Suplico, the measure's proponent, urged House members to speed up passage of the bill while the comfort women were still alive. Most of them are in their 70s.

He proposed a ballpark figure of P12 million to fund the bill to compensate the comfort women, the term used to refer to women from the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries who were forced to be sex slaves of Japanese soldiers during World War II.

"Another 50 cog dems hang pulot sa ating bahay—'OK' what use is the money if they're already dead?," said Golez, using a Filipino adage to stress the urgency of the measure at a packed public hearing conducted by the House committee on foreign relations.

The committee also approved two House resolutions urging Congress to support the compensation bill despite the apprehensions of officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice and the Commission on Human Rights.

The committee chair, Iloilo Rep. Antonio Cuenco, immediately referred the resolutions for plenary approval.

Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes warned committee members that approving the resolutions could have serious repercussions on diplomatic and trade relations with Japan.

He said the Philippines must be "sensitive" to the feelings of Japan, which he said has been the country's "most generous" and biggest donor of development funds.

Brillantes said the Philippines may already be legally barred from seeking compensation for the comfort women as the dialogue being sought were included in the reparations agreement with Japan shortly after the end of World War II.

But Golez said it would be unjust to let the comfort women die without the government lifting a finger to help them. Cynthia R. Rabasa

Failure to solve media killings rankles probers

By Michael O. Jocson
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Two international journalists who visited Bicol's on Friday on a fact-finding mission, were dismayed by the failure of local police investigators to solve the killings of media practitioners in the region, especially in Albay.

The two journalists were United Nations (UN)-International Federation of Journalists Asia-Pacific office based in Australia and senior writer of the Sydney Morning Herald, and Roman Rafel Montalvan of the Indonesian Journalists Association and former executive editor of Tempo, Indonesia's most influential newsweekly.

In a meeting with Albay government and police officials at the provincial capitol on Friday Noonan and Alias Arnan learned that not a single case had been solved in the past seven years.

The case of the two journalists was organized by the IFJ and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

IFJ and NUJP representatives are on a nationwide mission to investigate the killings of Filipino journalists, particularly the failure of authorities to solve most of them.

The mission is part of the IFJ's international campaign to protect journalists around the world.

Noonan, heard the explanation of Albay provincial police director Supt. Roque Ramores and Dr. Supt. Jaime Ollila, regional police information officer, forthcoming.

The two police officials admitted they found it difficult to solve the killings of journalists in Albay due to lack of cooperation from witnesses.

Noonan said that with the killings still unsolved, it was very apparent that the justice system here had so many loopholes, unlike in Australia where the killings of journalists are immediately solved.

Montalvan told the Inquirer that the negative result of their investigation was very alarming.

A disappointed Montalvan said that if the police would enter their lists of keys to solve the cases, the media killings in the province would surely be solved and cultured or even stopped.

In the past five years, the Philippines has attracted considerable attention due to the increasing number of journalists killed.

Last year alone, 13 journalists were killed. All cases have remained unsolved.

The IFJ is the world's largest organization of journalists, with more than 500,000 members, while the NUJP, Philippine affiliate, is the country's largest union of journalists with more than 20 chapters nationwide.

Based on NUJP statistics, Albay has the most number of murdered media killings compared to other provinces. Since 1986, at least ten print and broadcast journalists have been killed.

As Wednesday, a former GMA television broadcaster was the first victim. She was killed by an unidentified suspect in front of her apartment only one morning in 1986.

Rendez Rudyo broadcaster Glaiza Domingo, a former Bicol People's Army member, was also dead, after her abductors rushed to respond.

On April 28, 2000, John Villanueva Jr., a broadcaster of radio station dzGR and known as Albay is "Mr. Public Service," was riddled with bullets by two unidentified assailants near his home in Barangay Tagaytay in Ligao town.

Toyota has learned from the roads of the world. And that's why we're giving you our promise—soon.

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

METRO
Editor Dave G. Olperiado ■ Assistant Editor Connie B. Bino

EZ2: 30 18 4 6 7 — SUERTRES: 9 9 2 5 8 0 — SIX DIGIT — 6/42 Lotto/Via-Mike: 8 19 12 16 33 34 P14,343,333.90 — SWEEPSTAKES: 4 1 1 4 2 1 P100,000.00

How Metro residents cope with high power rates

By Marjorie C. Ortiz, Leila B. Salaverria, Tina G. Ramos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MOST households have not been spared the shock caused by the series of power rate increases.

The generation charge alone in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces rose four times between February 2004 and January this year, from P3.19 to P4.75 per kilowatt-hour, or 49 percent of hi-percent.

The successive rate hikes by National Power Corp. (Napocor) to recover the huge loss in power due to the weakening of the peso against the dollar and the high fuel oil prices, and to help Napocor ease its losses.

Other components of the electricity bill like the transmission and system loss charges also went up.

The increases were so steep that consumers—from an urban poor resident in Manila to a businessman living in the old rich enclave of Forbes Park in Makati—have been forced to adopt energy-saving measures.

But for those hardly able to make ends meet, energy-saving measures are not enough. They are scrimping on basic necessities so they can settle their monthly electricity bills.

"We could not keep up with the power rate hikes," Gina Mesa, a resident of a depressed community in Malate, said. "We are working hard to pay the our electricity instead of using money for food."

Her family of five has suffered less than by drug peddling. Gaos has been selling doughnuts to support her four little children. "I teach my children to refrain from turning the lights on even when we have visitors at home," she said.

No more vitamins

Mila Gonzales, a local government employee, complains that a big chunk of her family's budget now goes to electricity. Her bill rose from P950 to as much as P1,200 a month.

"We could not buy vitamins for ourselves anymore," Gonzales lamented.

Her family used to take the electricity bill for granted. "Now there is a conscious effort on our part to cut down on costs," she said.

The Gonzales now buy food from a nearby market instead of keeping provisions inside an old refrigerator for long periods. In addition, they keep their electricity spend to an inexpensive level.

The high cost of electricity has altered the lifestyles of even the wealthy.

In Forbes Park, the family of a businessman has learned the value of regulating the use of air-conditioners.

"The rising cost of electricity has really affected us. Previously we only would set [air-conditioners] at 'cool,'" said the businessman, who pays around P50,000 a month for electricity.

"We used to leave the lights on during daytime, but we could now afford to do that," he said.

Even in Corinthian Hills, a wealthy enclave in Quezon City, a family of a bank executive now pays P20,000 a month for electricity, up from P13,000.

"The additional P2,000 is still a big amount," said the vice president of a bank in Makati.

Although his family can very well afford to pay the electricity bills, he is still encouraging his children to conserve power.

Kids in master bedroom

They are now using fluorescent bulbs, switching off lights when nobody is around, and turning off the TV set when no one is watching.

Today, there are rooms I ask my children to check in the master bedroom to see if I can minimize the use of the other air-cons. I also advised the helpers to do certain measures that can help reduce power rates. And I'm glad because each one is cooperating," the bank executive said.

His family has all kinds of appliances including three refrigerators, five air-con units and three personal computers—an evolution his kids.

But some of the high cost of electricity, the house of Gualberto Magallanes in Tondo, Manila, had fewer lights last Christmas.

Just one window and a Christmas tree were decked with lights, a far cry from the Christmases past when the whole house was bathed in light.

The Presentable Crisis

Christmas lights

Not only that. The lights were switched on for only a few hours. "The Christmas lights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. But now it will before we go to sleep, unlike before when it was turned on all night," said Magallanes, an owner in a call center.

It was also wrong his electricity bill—as to P4,000, the biggest amount so far that he decided to be frugal in the use of electricity.

After he discovered one of his refrigerators was used mostly their electric-powered gadgets less, his bills dropped by a few hundreds, or more, a thousand pesos.

"Last year was not an easy one for us financially. Our budget needs to be increased, but since I had nothing to add to it, my family and I had to learn to be frugal," he said.

In the case of Georgie Escobre, a resident of the Bureau Compound in Manila, dealing with rising electricity bills means devising ingenious living-room techniques.

"I will not buy curtain appliances for the sweltering heat since they will translate to bigger electricity bills," he said.

Escobre, an officer of a mangrove-nursery organization, is still in the process of rebuilding his life after a fire last leveled the Bureau Compound to the Fort Area in January last year.

He and his neighbors have three sources: one for their electricity from a private source. "Even a small increase in electricity rates affects us significantly because the minimum rental bill is multiplied to either 12 or 14," he said.

Ironing once a week

In Paranaque, Quezon City, Michele Palopatanas, a factory worker, has also sought the conservation book upon seeing her electricity bill jumped by 30 percent to between P800 and P900.

Besides switching off lights early at night and spending less time watching TV, her family watches more clothes.

"I already implement all of these and I still see my bills to be significantly unstable. There are other bills to pay like the house rental and water," she said.

Ironing clothes only once a week is also one of the coping mechanisms adopted by the family of Edith, a government employee.

"I also tell my maid to iron a few clothes [used in the house," said Edith, whose husband runs a family business. Their clothes iron is already working, while her youngest son is a graduating student at De La Salle-College of the Philippines.

"We are not spared up, but we have to control some extravagances of our electric consumption," said Edith, who receives a monthly salary of P30,000.

Illegal connections

With high power rates, many might be tempted to use jumpers to reduce their electric bills, according to a police officer.

"People would think illegal connections and jumpers are common only in urban poor communities," said Sr. Insp. Rolando Mendoza of the police station in Navotas, adding an eye-opener during field operations of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

He said the Meralco raiding team had already apprehended businessmen who use jumpers to draw power.

But those who can no longer afford the cost of electricity, they will have to keep how to live without the conveniences of freestyle appliances.

As a household in Paete, Isa shows, one can enjoy life without electricity—something they Manila-ites may find "subversive."

Outreach brings beef to poor's table

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOR MOST middle-class families in Metro Manila, eating beef may be an regular as going to church on Sundays. But for Filipino-style poor, it may come only as often as rain in the desert.

And for many others, not at all.

A school foundation run by Turkish and Filipino educators embarked on a project to bring beef to the tables of poor families in San Juan. This, says the the school's directors, is their way of reaching out to the less unfortunate.

"Maybe even if it is just once a year, they would eat beef," explained Kayla Bulbul, director of Fountain Academy, a pre-school and grade-school on mosquito-lover in San Juan.

The municipal government unlocked identified the poor families and sent them to the school with coupons.

Each bag contains two to three kilos of beef, a kilo of which costs anywhere between P180 to P260 in the market, depending on the part.

"This will come a long way for [some] eating beef for a long, long time," remarked Nenggong Ramos, 30, of Barangay Corazon de la Paz, the poorest district in town.

She went to the school with a neighbor and a friend.

"I have three children, the youngest of whom still needs milk. I never get to buy beef," she said, shrugging. "We simply can't afford it."

Ramos' family is registered with her husband, a jeepney driver. His brother is living doing odd jobs for neighbors.

"I am very thankful," she said. "This will come a long way perhaps a week or maybe even a month."

Once a year, in Muslim, if he could afford it, a well-to-do slaughters an animal—cow, lamb, sheep, goat—and gets the meat to the poor. This takes place during the Eid'l Adha, which marks the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Muslims' holiest of places.

Last year, the same group butchered 170 cows and distributed the meats to poor residents in Zamboanga.

This year, Khadijah Cross Australia, Germany, New Zealand and Turkey sent money to the Integrative Center for Humanitarian Development Foundation Inc. in the Philippines instead of slaughtering animals in their own countries.

ICHD vice Fountain Academy in San Juan and the Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School in Lumbangan City.

School officials thought of expanding the program this year to Metro Manila, and they raised more than enough donations for this.

"They really love no meat of the beef in Germany, New Zealand, Australia and Turkey, so we asked if someone just send it funds to us. We will buy cows and distribute the beef to the poor here," says ICHD vice president Syrik Ardahoglu.

"The response was very positive," he added.

Some 400 cows were butchered on Zamboanga, where the rest is thought.

Some of the meat eventually found their way to San Juan.

Asked if they would do it again next year, Ardahoglu said beaming, "Definitely. We will try to do it every year."

Marian image leaves RP with hope

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TOKYO (As retired, Reyes Ogbiocene had just documented several pictures and Typhoon "Yoyong" was threatening to devastate parts of the country.

She started and she saw how violent the storm was. The eye of a typhoon has great-gripped cities because of a decided illness, how many desperately tried to make ends meet amid the rising prices of basic commodities.

She says how we struggled to hang on.

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima, which has been going around the world for almost 58 years, has just ended its 64-day visit to the country.

The image arrived on Dec. 3 in Metro Manila and were secured at least 60 churches on its earth tour in the country image custodian Carl Medina told the Inquirer Thursday, hours before leaving for the US.

Based on the description of Sister Lucia, one of the three children to whom Mary appeared in Portugal in 1917, the pilgrim image was sculpted in 1947 and has been going around the world carrying the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

"World-renowned image, but the message is unchanging," Medina said.

He said that the message was for everyone to offer prayers, sacrifices and reparation for sins to bring about peace.

"If not, there will be more wars, persecution and human [sic] sense the possibility of the annihilation of several nations," Medina added, still referring to the message.

"When this image was blessed, the priest of the Bishop of Portugal was told that it would be accompanied by the Virgin Mary spiritually," Fr. Melvin Castro, Philippine coordinator of the pilgrimage said.

Before leaving the country, the image stayed for two days at The Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Mandaluyong, Quezon City.

Finished. Mariapaid flowers and about 500 devotees attended the Mass inside the small church on Thursday.

United Auctioneers, Inc.
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
DAILY PUBLIC AUCTION
FEBRUARY 20, 21 & 22, 2005
(SUNDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY)
Catch the Best at Subic Bay
PREVIEW DATES: FEBRUARY 15 to 17, 2005
AUCTION DATES: FEBRUARY 17, to 22, 2005
ROBOTTA R1100-2 — TCM 10M — MAZDA 2.5 TON CRANE
ISUZU 10M BOOM TRUCK — INTERNATIONAL 10M TRUCK — ISUZU FTR 6 DYNA CARGO TRUCK
FORD RANGER RAIDER TRUCK — TOYOTA LAND CRUISER — NISSAN CARAVAN
SUBIC: TEL NOS: (0047) 252-1078 • 252-1053 to 58 FAX NO: (0047) 252-1063
MANILA TEL NOS: (02) 8287858 • 8290501 • 426-3908 • 453-3478 • 911-90, 09178888824
FAX NO: (02) 929-8268 EMAIL: info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.com
Trucks & Equipment financing available from ORIX METRO Leasing & Financing Corp. Tel: (02) 898-8888

UCPB building catches fire

By Irene C. Perez

A 40-SUBSTATION of still unknown cause destroyed yesterday's room at the Central Insurance Investment Fund office in the United Coconut Planters Bank Building (UCPB) on Makati Avenue.

The building was empty save for about 40 employees who were attending a seminar in another floor. They were safely evacuated.

Insp. Rachel Solis, officer-in-charge of the Makati Fire District (MFD), said the fire started inside the electrical room that drew the [illegible] room on the 36th floor.

The room closed some Christmas decorations, firemen said.

Electrical source shouldn't be cabinet as electrician," Solis said.

While no one was hurt, losses were estimated at P1 million, mostly due to water damage.

A security guard reported the incident at about 12:30 p.m., and the area was declared under at 1:17 p.m.

Daniel Tuazon, a UCPB employee, said the building was mostly made up of concrete of floor.

The MFD would investigate if the UCPB building had undergone the safety routine checks last year, said Solis.

'Global warming bigger threat than terrorism'

By Isagani M. Yambot
Publisher

DAVOS, Switzerland—The dogs that global warming is the biggest ever threat the earth is facing, scientific, government and industry experts said in successive in the World Economic Forum this past three days.

They said the longer the delay in meaningful action on climate change, the more costly would be its economic and human impact.

Sen. John McCain (Rep., Ariz.) said Tuesday he is convinced that the danger to be "the greatest threat to our planet that we've ever experienced." The solution, he said, might be to explore the use of nuclear power, the technology of which has advanced considerably in the last few years.

David King, chief scientific adviser of the Office of Science and Technology of the United Kingdom, said Thursday global warming was the biggest threat of this century bigger than terrorism.

"The amount of evidence coming in is remarkable," King said. Every week, he said, about two articles in major scientific journals offer substantive underscoring climate change.

Already suffering

He noted that the world was already suffering the effects of global warming and cited as an example the heat wave that caused the death of 35,000 people in the summer of 2003 in Europe.

"We cannot afford the luxury of avoiding," said John P. Holdren, professor of environmental policy and director of The Kennedy School's Science and Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, in an Wednesday.

Holdren said, "The state of science has converged substantially on clear evidence that climate is changing in significant ways and that fossil fuels' contribution is quite clearly the dominant factor."

He said recent research indicates that sea levels might rise by more than one meter over the next half century.

Jonathan Lash, president of World Resources Institute, USA, mentioned a recent report that the ice cap in Greenland is melting at 40 meters of its thickness in just six months.

More urgent

Carnegie's the chairman of a scientific findings on climate change is substantial last year," Lash said. "The findings are driving an increased level of concern in the media and with the interested public. The problem is becoming more urgent."

Lash mentioned two dangerous climate change events that have to be avoided at all costs. These are the loss of seasonal monsoons in India and the melting of the Greenland ice sheets, both of which could be devastating, he said.

Mechanisms

The loss of the monsoons would affect agriculture greatly and the people of India would suffer badly, Lash said. The melting of the Greenland ice sheet could raise sea levels by 6.5 meters and all it would take is a global temperature rise of just two degrees.

He cited one proof of the impact of rising and warming seas: the sinking of the collapse of coal fishermen of the North Atlantic. He suggested that it was true to a decline in the coal's food, which is arctic plankton.

The plankton have moved northward to escape the increased water and higher sea temperatures caused by great amounts of carbon dioxide entering the ocean.

Action points

But the problem of global warming is not insoluble, the experts said. They proposed the following action points:

1. Urgent action on the international and national levels to reduce carbon emissions.

2. Development of strict international regulatory frameworks for emissions monitoring.

3. Expansion of the Group of 8 to include key developing economies, particularly China, India and Brazil, and the creation of a climate change task force.

Bing said the discussions in Davos would be a beginning. He said personal and collective changes, such as hybrid cars, would have an effect on the way governments act to mitigate global warming.

Kyoto to Asia

Daniel J. Esptein, senior vice president for corporate and international affairs of Alcoa Councils, suggested that intensive energy users would integrate environment, social and sustainability issues into their management systems to lessen their contributions to climate change.

Eileen Claussen, president of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, USA, said that practical local innovative efforts would be looking beyond carbon-reducing technologies like emission-free coal plants and hybrid cars.

US court summons Bongbong

LOS ANGELES (Reuters)—The daughter of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, has been ordered to appear in US federal court in Honolulu, Hawaii, during a goodwill visit there next month.

The order issued Wednesday allows Marcos to travel to Hawaii despite warnings of court charges pending against him and his mother, former First Lady Imelda Marcos. It bars him from speaking in public about pending litigation, however.

Judge Margaret Reed ordered Marcos to appear in court on Feb. 7. Marcos is due to meet with Filipino communities in Hawaii and sign a sister state-province agreement with Gov. Linda Lingle during his visit on Feb. 1-6.

Reed is overseeing the distribution of assets to thousands of Filipinos who won a $2-billion judgment against the Marcos estate in 1995, when a Honolulu jury found the late strongman responsible for executions, disappearances and torture during his 14-year rule under martial law. The award stood but grown to $1.7 billion with interest.

Imelda Marcos and her son were found in contempt of court in 1995, after they ruled they had violated a court order freezing their assets. They have been subjected to a fine of $100,000 a day since then.

In December, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a previous ruling freeing the former dictator's assets that are being held in the Philippines and other banks around the world.

Ownership of the funds has been disputed since they were discovered in 1986, even after Marcos was ousted from power and fled to Hawaii. The deposits totaled about $356 million but have almost doubled from interest and later investments.

Arguments are scheduled before the 9th Circuit in March on the ownership of an additional $60 million. Last summer, Reed ordered those assets awarded after the judgment was awarded in 1995, but lawyers for company set up by Marcos that originally held the money appealed.

AP

Lifestyle, nutrition risks poll results due

THE RESULTS of the first nationwide survey on lifestyle and nutrition-related risk factors and diseases among Filipinos 20 years and older will be the highlight of the 36th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and the Philippine Lipid Society on Feb. 2-4 at Elite Design Q Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The 2003-04 National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHeS) was a joint public and private sector initiative and was the first ever nationwide research conducted on lifestyle habits, cardiovascular risk factors and lifestyle diseases in the Philippines. The results were said to be very revealing.

Spearheaded by the PSH, PLS, Philippine Diabetes Association, Philippine Heart Association, Department of Health and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, the project was funded by the participating medical societies and the DOH.

The results will be presented from 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Feb. 3.

Among the topics to be discussed is "The Prevalence of Lifestyle and Nutrition-Related Cardiovascular Diseases and Risk Factors for Atherosclerosis among Adult Filipinos."

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral, PSH president, said the implications of the prevalence in diagnosis and treatment as well as its comparisons to Europe and previous local data would be discussed.

Crisis can be averted with political will, focus

By John Mery

DU PEC presentation before the Senate energy committee Energy Secretary Vince Perez said "immediate measures must be undertaken to the Mindanao" this year.

Right after the Senate hearing, Perez was besieged by a half-dozen reporters.

Mr. Perez, explained the Mindanao situation in an interview. The looming threat of another El Niño was real, he said, but there was still time to conserve the island's hydroelectric reserves.

"But we've gotten over the El Niño contingency plan in the next three months," he said, adding to Filipinos: "Before the rainy season, we will conserve water, we will use diesel plants, to push the water in Lake Lanao. We will raise the inventory of water."

The one-page summary papers his office prepared outlined the "immediate" Mindanao measures. It includes the "fast-tracking of the sole Mindanao power plant in the pipeline, the 210-MW Mindanao coal project" and the "transfer of excess capacity from Luzon to Visayas and Mindanao (Panay)."

The Department of Energy has already reviewed an inter-agency committee "emergent of all gas-

Turn to page A8

sion measures and is fast-growing economy.

If the gross domestic product, the total value of all goods and services produced in the country, grows by 5 percent a year, Perez said, "we will have to build a megawatt" of power.

"Then if economic growth rate is 6 percent, we have to build two megawatts per year. Perez explained. "I guess it's clear that we have to put in [the expensive power] more efficiently and conserve it, and if we conserve on power it's a lot cheaper than to build power plants."

Focus needed

The power crisis Lopez was the final to round the dials on, in April last year, is actually preventable, he said. "All we need is focus."

Enough ...

From page A1

San Isidro, La Union—has enough power to meet a generator for household electricity.

Hardly accessible, Bunog and Lucsoy are among 16,000 villages not covered by the Barangay 20-Watt Corp. grid. Under the Philippine Energy Plan, Bunog and Lucsoy are among the villages tapped to be energized by 2018. But this is only on paper.

Keen to command his and scare government and church organizations advocating micro-hydro power say they cannot wait for the government to keep its promises to them.

So, on their own, representatives of the 200 Mabaka people of Bunog got in touch with the Catholic Church and the Ibloi ng Ilgbaras at Tekaviskaya, or Ilbar, a Metro Manila-based non-government organization helping install environment-friendly and community-run alternative energy facilities.

From 1996 to 2002, the Ilokuka fell, had provided labor and Ilbar, through its engineers, the project materials. Ilbar also sourced funds from the United Kingdom-based, opened Programme.

Inaugurated on January 2005, the Bunog 7.5-kW micro-hydro power plant has been providing electricity to 36 families.

Lessons learned

Under bright fluorescent lamps, children at work on their homework and could hear the while Frontline tonight, the community's loan public teacher can prepare her lessons plans.

Before he calls it a day, Mabaka elder Anderson Agapito secures station Barbara at night, which he sells to fascinated folk in Comeo town.

Cockney of the Reformed Church of the Philippines and simple Service made it possible micro-hydro power facility in Lucsoy has not only lit up the 126 homes of 1,000 upland farming folk. The facility has also enabled many families to make income for sale even at night.

Members of an association of women in Lucsoy earlier up rustic and once baking bread for sale. They installed pedicabs gas-fueled oven in their compound on a no budget.

And now that the electricity is flowing, the women have embarked on money-earning ventures such as processing ginger into soluble ginger tea powder.

Quiet revolution

Other privately initiated micro-hydro power plants are starting a quiet industrial revolution in towns inaccessible to Napocor.

A 5-kW micro-hydro power project built in 1993 in the sub-village of Sipitan in Dagbayan, Bulilig, powers a blacksmith shop, which manufactures simple farm tools needed by villagers. Rice, bolos, bolos and machetes for the 30 families in the community. It also operates a community mill and a vulcanizing shop.

A 20-kW micro-hydro power facility in Tal, payo village, also in Tinglayan, built in 1999 also has a rice mill, welding shop and video karaoke operation project which is every house that the on other shows depicts overdevelopment.

The Cordillera's serious springs and wiles, hamesthis giant potential for small water-powered electricity generators, and not necessarily big dams which often bring controversy and another source of energy from Nepal.

"And the beauty of it all is that the communities [will] themselves, if they're organized, can manage these facilities for their own well-being," he says.

Make or break year for Napocor sale

From page A1

But People Opposed to Warnation Electricity Rates or POWER, the advocacy coalition, said privatization did not serve the public interest. In a position paper firm passed on "overcharging" and "power intensive" rates in Tagaytay, Baguio Pampanga and Bacolod.

Lopez argued that foreign investors' investors gain from privatization.

"The figure was designed to reduce the power industry and for the benefit of and assets but for foreign transnational corporations. The various highlights of the figure ranging from the creation of [National], [Public], the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), the unbundling of power rates and the various orders and rules implemented under the figure are designed to segregate each saleable part of Napocor, make it attractive to investors and create investment and efforts to facilitate those transactions."

Root of all evil

Why sell Napocor?

Despite an ERC-approved provision at authority to raise its rates by at least age of 90 centavos per kilowatt hour (kWh) last year, the power company's cash deficit ballooned P70 billion and P100 billion annually and still growing; continues to be the biggest single burden the country has to bear.

Napocor's cash problems did not appear out of nowhere.

Both the government and the power industry agree that the main power factor underlying low rates are relatively long in time recovering financially. These low rates also drive much-needed investments away.

Losses

In May 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo in her Labor Day speech announced the capping of Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA), or generation-related costs of power from independent power producers (IPPs), that it could pass on to consumers, at a basic 40 centavos per kWh. It represented an 81-centavo slash per kWh in pass-on charges for Luzon consumers and a 90-centavo average per kWh reduction for all customers nationwide.

Napocor's provisional authority to raise rates effectively lifted the PPCA but not without leaving behind P36.60 billion in losses in 2002 and P13.07 billion in 2003.

A list of other different factors led to the Napocor losses.

Interest expense, for one, amounted to P44.85 billion in 2003, up from P37.81 billion in 2002, due largely to the depreciation of the peso against the dollar.

A change in accounting standards in 2002 jacked up Napocor's losses in between four and to take a one-time hit of P77 billion the following year—P66 billion for Napocor and P11 billion for the National Transmission Corp.

The new accounting standard called for the booking of foreign exchange gains or losses the same year they were incurred instead of amortizing them over the duration of the loans.

Most believe that foreign exchange fluctuations weighed down the entire Arroyo Finances, particularly in the wake of the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

Contracts with IPPs, the pass-on charges which had yet to be approved by the ERC, and Napocor a whopping P50.54 billion in 2003, the biggest contributor to its P112.23 billion debt at that year.

While generation plants Caruscan hydro, Dijan natural gas, Bataan hydro and Calaca's Bolokan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydro have been operating since 2001 and 2002, Napocor could not pass on to consumers power costs as consumers because the ERC has not to approve them.

Uneconomical natural gas fuel expenses added another P4.47 billion to Napocor's expenses in 2003, slightly climbed costs added P2.93 billion, and foreign exchange distributions subsidies P3.38 billion.

Higher insurance

Other factors that jacked up the state firm's operating expenses were higher insurance expenses as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States in 2001, the increase in the use of other power supplies, mainly because of the rise in Napocor's purchased power cost, and the entry of new IPPs.

"Some contributed to Napocor's losses, plus the fact that the rates from was severely undercapitalized.

Despite having assets worth almost P1 trillion as of end-2002, Napocor's paid-in capital is only about three-per-

LOPEZ: Cheaper to save a megawatt than to build one. BY ALEXIS TORRES

cent of that amount or P27 billion.

Due to lack of actual capital, the firm's operations had to be financed by borrowing over the past decades.

To save Napocor from collapse, Perez said its rates should go up and its privatization has resumed. Two years would have been to the "supposed to help pay for the part of Napocor's debts that would be absorbed by the national government.

Populist pressure

Roberto Lopez, president of the Mercado-based Food Generation Holdings Corp., says the government will continue to be trapped in a "vicious cycle of subsidies" if it allows external factors to get in the way of industry regulation.

With electricity rates suppressed because of populist pressure, Napocor's debts will continue to grow, he says. The government will then be forced to borrow more just to finance the operations of the bleeding power firm.

But with the still weak peso, borrowing costs will be higher, further worsening Napocor's finances.

Having Napocor raises more reflective of the true cost of producing power is the key, at this point, to attracting new investments in the generation sector, Lopez explained, a step to the "unbundling spiral of subsidies."

Napocor in June last year sought a rate adjustment of P1.87 per kWh to enable it to achieve an 8 percent return on rate base, a measure of profitability.

The ERC in September 2004, however, only allowed it to hike rates by 66 centavos per kWh.

The provisional authority allowed Napocor to increase its Luzon rate to P3.81 per kWh from P3.37, its Visayas rate to P3.66 from P3.62 per kWh, and its Mindanao rate to P2.07 from P1.90 per kWh. These new rates also included adjustments for foreign exchange fluctuations.

Not enough

The Napocor rate hike petition, had it been granted in full, should have allowed it to recover P4.36 per kWh in Luzon rates to P4.36 per kWh, in Visayas rate to P4.01 per kWh and its Mindanao rate to P3.21 per kWh.

Hearings on the final outlook for the Napocor rate hike are still ongoing. So far the ERC has given no indication of whether it will give in full the P1.87 per kWh that Napocor is asking for.

But Lopez says even the rate increase of P1.87 centavos per kWh that Napocor is seeking will not be enough to wipe out its red ink, even with the government's absorption of P300 billion of the power firm's debts.

On top of the current rates, as adjusted by virtue of the provisional rollback, Napocor will need an additional rate increase of P1.41 per kWh.

Using this figure, current Napocor rates should be at least P5.22 per kWh in Luzon, P4.45 per kWh in the Visayas and P3.48 per kWh in Mindanao for the firm's net loss to be wiped out, Lopez says.

"But to jack up the power firm's rates to reflect the true cost of generating power will require much political will and a stable regulatory environment.

"Attracting a sustainable inflow of power generation investments is one prerequisite—a more stable regulatory environment. The key words here are certainty, predictability, transparency and fairness. The center be overstressed enough," he says. With a report from John Mery

'Amazing Grace' continues to amaze as Isabela governor

From page A1

the May 2004 elections, she had ended the political dynasty of the old matriarch Dy.

She also crossed swords with illegal loggers, gambling lords and corrupt government officials.

For her extraordinary courage in the face of great odds, Isabela, 46, was named "Asian Heroine of the Year 2004" named by the civil society group Silaborate during simple ceremonies at the Insurgency of the Philippines College of Lawyers Inc. 14.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, a Silaborate member, said the forty-2 was given to Padua to "let let the will of the nation know that she is not alone in her admirable struggle for good governance and in her battle to the illegal activities of right now having

... [and] in recognition of her valiant and relentless struggle, despite her disability, to clean up the political system in her province," said Salonga. She was one of the youth in Isabela to emulate in her example."

"She is truly an amazing Grace," gushed Silaborate vice president Quintin Doromal.

New battle

Another battle looms for Padua, this time in the form of an election recall to be filed by the By family.

"They could not even wait for one year to lodge an protest as provincial governor," she said of her political adversaries.

Last December, massive rallies by the Dy family were reportedly preparing the petition for Padua's recall which they planned to file in May, exactly one year after she won as governor.

Padua was subdued and wouldn't rather have her goals for good governance in Isabela.

Four days ago, she posted signs urging contractors and suppliers "not to pay bribes to facilitate the release of their checks because the checks were already being processed." These advisory notices posted at the main entrances of the Isabela capitol and in the offices of the governor, budget, accounting and treasurer.

Drive vs jueteng

She also embarked on a campaign against jueteng, which she described as an uphill struggle because "I could not get the cooperation of the mayors."

The mayors resisted, Padua said, "because they need the jueteng money to support their constituents' needs, like funerals, hall courts, coffins, etc."

From policemen were laborers to the driver because "they especially get 70 to 80 percent of their operation funds from the mayors," she said.

"Being physically disabled, I need to bring taken care of. Now I am taking care of 1 million people," Padua said, adding that she would need time to look into all these problems.

Impartial but bold

Her personal life, she said, had not changed. Her mother would relax the vibrants in the meadow and would tend the prayers during crises. "Husband is nga lamon [praying at wake], that's what keeps her busy," she said.

Although different with polls when she was three months old, Padua is now smart and vocalized hand. She graduated magna cum laude in 1985 with a BS degree in Business Administration, major in accounting, from the Lyceum of the Philippines in Intramuros, Manila.

The following year, she took the exams for certified public accountant (CPA), but went back to Isabela and landed a job as a radio broadcaster with Bombo Radyo, known for its hard-hitting coverages.

For three-day "impartial but bold" coverage of the 1986 coup attempt launched her career as a no-nonsense broadcast journalist who spoke against the "wealthy and powerful" in Isabela.

In 2004, Padua headed the recount of over-inflated returns to give the third district of Isabela a chance by running against Faustino Dy III in that year's congressional race.

"With outlawed bolt but very limited financial resources—P500,000 from small contributions, a few bill-board contracts and an old truck which she could use only every other day for her political campaign—Padua beat Congressman Dy by the score of his life," Salonga said.

However, Padua's last after the Home Electoral Tribunal nullified votes that have the same "letters" instead of her full name "Maria Grace Padua."

In May 2004, Padua ran and defeated Gov. Faustino Dy Jr., a member of the political Dy Clan. She was the first candidate to run against a Dy in an election since the '70s.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor: Tedjoric S. Melendrez

Taulava key figure in Game One today

WHETHER he plays or not, Asi Taulava will be a major factor in today's game.

By Jun Medina

ASI TAULAVA is not to play for Talk 'N Text, the Philippine Basketball Association is determined to stop him from playing. Guerrero couldn't care less if he sees action or not.

The 2005 Phoenix Fuel Masters captain Taulava's return is dependent only on the result of a petition City Regional Trial Court when they collide with the Batangas Giants Kings today at the start of their Great Moments PBA Philippine Cup 8-team at the Araneta Coliseum.

But commissioner Noli Eala said it won't lift the suspension imposed by the PBA on Taulava based on a Supreme of Justice ruling, and invoked the league's prerogative to a private sports organization to decide who can or cannot play in its tournaments.

"Moves to the history of the PBA for a third party intervened with this authority," Eala stressed.

Batangas Giancha, however, is unaffected by all that are him.

"If Asi plays, he plays. We just have to deal with that," said Batangas Giancha coach Jhet Tanquingcan, after the Kings earned back-for Miguel Beer, 76-75, into Friday to win their undefeated season, 7 games to 2, and reach the Finals.

The Phone Pals lost their last two meetings against the Kings in the tournament with Taulava already under suspension along with 8-in other PB Import players declared by the DOJ as having taken their citizenship.

Talk 'N Text assistant coach Virgil Villavicencio confirmed yesterday that Taulava has been given the go-signal by management to play based on a decision by Judge Rodolfo Pacency of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 223.

But Eala said the PBA will appeal the decision even as its board of directors decided not to let Taulava's suspension.

"In a private sports organization, it is a well-established practice that the PBA makes its own rules and decisions as to who can or cannot play in the league," said Eala.

He said allowing Taulava to play "will be a dangerous precedent. The PBA admittedly is an island behind the courts and take legal steps to protect 30 years of tradition."

"Taulava's citizenship or the commissioner's knowledge of the law are of no significance in this matter compared to the greater interest of the league and the fans," he added.

Eala also cautioned Taulava's lawyer, Eduardo Francisco, for trying to impose his will on the league.

"As it is, he (Francisco) is already acting like the commissioner of the league as he has already given the go-signal for Taulava to play," said Eala. "Now, how can a third party do that?"

The first time an outside agency intervened in running the affairs of the league came in 2001 when Taulava secured a temporary restraining order (TRO) that caused the postponement of at least two Gilt playdates.

The board later booked the commissioner's office on its stand on the citizenship issue of Jerry Alvarado and Eric Menk and fined respectively P2 million in Barangay Taulava.

The Gin Kings are seeking their first back-to-back titles, a stark, overall PBA crown and second in the post-Reform Amendments era since 1993.

On the other hand, the Phone Pals are going for a second straight All-Filipino crown after Capital ng the 2000 APC title. Their first since joining the PBA in 1996.

"We want this championship so much. We'll just go out there and play hard. Our remainderers is to give our very best despite the odds," said DNT coach Joel Banal.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lawrence Pangilinan

TENNIS: 1000 Australian Open Mixed Double Finals; 1 a.m.; Men's Singles Finals; 4 a.m.; STAR Sports—final cut who leaves Mel Invernardi to the score.

GOLF: Asian Tour-Caltex Masters; 6 a.m. to 10 and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Site the final two days of the first Asian Tour event tee off on a delayed basis.

BASKETBALL: NBA—Magic vs Wizards; 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Nets vs Los Clippers; 12 noon; Solar Sports—Orlando hopes to end a spell on Wizards Jaglad rubble Golden State and LA clash in California.

US NCAA—Duke vs Florida State; 2 p.m. to 4:30pm—Wonderful Duke; 4 p.m. to 7 PPN—Duke and Blue look to keep gallons holding the Blue Devils against the Seminoles and the Terrapins, respectively. Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

EXTENDED UP TO MARCH 31, 2005

GREAT NEWS!

Enjoy The SMART Buddy Pizza Hut 1+1 plus 1 Deal via SIM SWAP!

Load up with P40

PLUS

the Real NEW YORKER

=

FREE

Hawaiian Supreme or Pepperoni Pan Pizza

Pizza Hut

Simply swap your active non-SMART SIM to the SMART Buddy Super SIM 3. Load P40 together with your order of Thin Real Yorker Twelve Pizza or any Pan Pizza, and you'll get Hawaiian Supreme or Pepperoni Pan Pizza.

911-11-11 FREE**

Text PIZZAHUT to 211 for details

*Regular or Variety Pizza of Medium-sized Delivery Charges.
**P580 Pizza will be of the same size as the Pan Pizza purchased. For Thin Real Yorker Twelve, FREE PIZZA will be family-size.

SMART

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozon

Mad cow disease jumps to a goat, EU confirms

BRUSSELS—European scientists have confirmed the first case of "mad cow" disease in another species, officials said Friday, while playing down the risk from a condition linked to a horrific brain disease in humans.

The European Union's executive arm and the French agriculture ministry said that a goat slaughtered in France in 2002 had tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which previously only affected cows.

But the European Commission, while ordering EU governments to intensify tests of goat herds, said there was minimal risk to humans from consuming goat's meat, cheese or milk.

"It's the first natural case in the world," European Commission spokesperson Philip Tod said, explaining that goats had been given BSE in laboratories to see if the cross-species infection was possible.

The goat was slaughtered and randomly tested in France in 2002 as part of an EU-wide surveillance program against the spread of BSE, which is blamed for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in humans, causing brain-wasting, personality change, loss of body function, and ultimately death.

A total of 148 people have died of vCJD in Britain. France has recorded nine cases; Ireland one (one of whom had lived in England), followed by Canada, Italy and the United States with one death each, according to official tallies.

The initial assumption was that it had contracted scrapie, which is among the diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) affecting sheep and goats.

But the Weybridge laboratory has now confirmed that the goat had had BSE, which hitherto affected only cattle. The human victims are thought to have contracted vCJD after eating BSE-infected beef.

The European Commission, however, played down the risk to humans.

"The testing program has shown us that there is a very low incidence rate of TSE in goats and allowed us to devote support animals so that they can be taken out of the food chain," EU health commissioner Markos Kyprianou said. AFP

Facts on mad cow

PARIS—More than a goat slaughtered in France in 2002 was infected with "mad cow" disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disturbing sign that it can cross over to other species and the human consumption.

The presence of BSE in other animals had been considered theoretically possible but had never previously been detected.

BSE first appeared in the 1990s in Britain, decimating the cattle industry, and causing alarm in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

The discovery triggered a collapse of beef farming in Britain and a ban on imports into other EU countries which has stayed in place.

In a bid to curb the disease and reassure consumers, Britain slaughtered around 200,000 head of cattle, but concern over the danger of eating raw BSE-tainted meat persists.

BSE is blamed for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), a horrific brain disorder, in humans.

A total of 148 people have died of vCJD in Britain. France has recorded nine cases; Ireland one (one of whom had lived in England), followed by Canada, Italy and the United States with one death each, according to official tallies.

Scientists, meanwhile, sometimes study—a variant of the well-documented Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease—is caused by a rogue prion protein that can sneak in the brain, turning it "spongy" by destroying brain cells.

In 1996, the first evidence emerged in link vCJD with eating beef infected with BSE.

That unleashed panic among British consumers and countries which imported British beef. Billions of dollars were spent to curtail cells and subsidies for farmers in the desperate bid to restore faith in the markets.

One of the biggest mysteries about vCJD has been the time the disease takes to incubate in Britain, where some 150 cases of vCJD have so far been recorded.

France, which used to be a big importer of British cattle and beef, and the United States have also recorded cases of vCJD and there have been deaths reported in Ireland, Italy and Canada. AFP

US actress Sharon Stone raises her hand and challenges the assembled political and business leaders to stand up and pledge donations, offering $ 10,000 herself, during a session on "Funding the War on Poverty" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 28.

Sharon Stone makes splash at Davos

DAVOS, Switzerland—Sharon Stone, the Hollywood actress and activist, admitted she "made an ass of myself" in a headline-grabbing plea for funds to tackle poverty in Africa—but brought in a million dollars.

Joining her fiancee during a honeymoon detour at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, she stood up in the crowded hall to offer an immediate personal pledge of $ 10,000, then challenged others to follow suit.

Within minutes more than 20 businessmen had stood up, and collectively raised more than $1 million to buy antiretroviral medicines to help the fight against malaria in Tanzania, organizers announced afterwards.

She confessed later that she had been listening to the heavyweight debaters—including Britain's Chancellor Gordon Brown, who himself has drawn up an antipoverty action plan—and felt it was not quick or concrete enough.

"I have this philosophy that money talks and cash screams," said Stone, of "basic instinct" fame, at a late-evening nightcap that dragged into the early hours of Saturday.

"A lot of them, let's face it, are pretty square," she said of the business leaders at the poverty debate.

"I thought, I'm going to have to make an ass of myself, be going to have to stand up and be shameless." "But in the end, 12 centimeters of ass-gain bucks the cow-to-flesh way to office."

Klaus Schwab, the founder of the annual forum in Davos, Switzerland, said a special account had been opened for donations.

On Saturday, in a message emailed to all participants, Stone, who is also a committed AIDS activist in the United States, called again for more cash. AFP

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?

A GREAT YEAR FOR A GREAT BUSINESS

PRINT PROFIT
START A PRINTSHOP BUSINESS NOW!
START-UP CAPITAL P 207
CALL: (02) 488-2393

SMALL INVESTMENT BIG PROFIT
Join the KOTTEST laundry franchise in town:
LAVANDERA LAUNDRY
for only
Php345,000.00
Franchise Fee, Machines, Inventory, Training, Basic Construction, Signage (Inclusive)
for more info: 812-8326 or 893-6339

Most College Entrance Exam results (including UPCAT) out soon!
Kalayaan College
at Riverbanks Center, Marikina
"The truth will set you free."
Founded and directed by UP Professors committed to quality higher education. KC is comparable to the best universities in our country.
KC offers professional courses grounded solidly in the liberal arts at a cost lower than other leading private universities.
KC faculty provide students a caring and nurturing environment to bring out the best in them.
Our sister institution, Kalayaan College Batasan, is similarly prepared to meet your academic needs.
Study at KC for your bright future!
Register early for the academic year starting June 2006
NO TUITION INCREASE!
Come and visit KC or call 934-4965 or 998-1726 (Marikina) or (047) 461-2298 (Batasan)
• E-mail us at info@kalayaan.edu.ph
• Visit our website at www.kalayaan.edu.ph

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 8th, 2001
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

1st Reading:
I set before you life and death.

Psalm: Yahweh, all you gone of the land who fulfill his commands, do justice and act aright, and perhaps you will find refuge on the day Yahweh comes to judge.

I will keep within you a poor and meek people who seek refuge in God. The remnants of Israel will not act unjustly nor will they speak falsely, nor will deceitful words be found in their mouths. They will eat and rest and no one will scare or threaten them.

2nd Reading: 1st Corinthians 2:6-10

God's Secret for the People of the world

Brothers and sisters, God has revealed to us through the Spirit. The Spirit searches out all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows what is truly human except the human spirit within them? So too, no one knows what God is except the Spirit of God. We have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. We speak of these things not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to those who have the Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

Fortunate are those who know the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

Fortunate are the meek, they shall possess the land.

Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

Fortunate are those who are pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great. This is how they persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

Commentary

This is the sermon on the mountain, the early blessings of what it means to be blessed in doing, to stand in the kingdom of justice and peace now and soon and when we still hard experience here on earth and know later fulfillment. Eight groups of people are blessed now the poor, the mourners, the gentle, those who thirst after justice, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the poor in spirit, those who work for peace and those persecuted like the prophets who called for justice for the poor in the past in Israel and also God alone. This is Jesus' call to render if we find ourselves in these groups to be close to God and to be blessed by God. Jesus is the new Moses giving us the new Law, our mission today and every day, our choices and words for justice and mercy. The first and the last are in the present tense—to find out who among the poor and persecuted for justice and to be blessed by God and to be blessed by God in the kingdom of peace and to be the kingdom in the world. Such saying is a parable in itself—reading to startle and catch us off guard. Do we dwell in the kingdom now? Who do we receive and serve ourselves with now, God and Christ and them? Are we blessed or have we blessed others with now?

Claretian Publications Inc. A chartered Co. UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, 1101 Quezon City, Tel. 921-0966, Fax: 921-9652, E-mail: publish@cbp.org, http://www.bible.claretian.org. Claretian Publications Inc. A http://claretian.org.ph/claretian in the Philippines

Religious problems threatening to stifle tsunami relief effort

WASHINGTON—Religious intolerance could derail crucial relief efforts in tsunami-hit Asian nations. UN groups warned Friday amid isolated reports of proselytizing in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India.

Mary Menzies, religion-based charities now among the first to reach out to countries ravaged by the Dec. 26 catastrophe that has killed more than 280,000 people and made one million others homeless.

"Now that we have an influx of religiously-affiliated aid organizations, the tensions may increase," Roger Severino, legal counsel for The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said at a Congressional briefing on the issue.

On the island nation Sri Lanka, Severino said "we think that these aid groups could be considered a threat by some extremist organizations which have a history of accusing NGOs of unethical conversion activities."

The Becket Fund, citing reports, said Muslim officials in Indonesia had directly threatened Christian humanitarian relief organizations for helping Muslim orphans while Hindus in India had begun to use their aid conversion laws as a way to counter Christian relief groups.

The Fund, an interfaith, nonpartisan, public interest law firm, said the "greatest danger" to relief efforts might be by predominantly Buddhist Sri Lanka, where an upsurge of anti-Christian violence was reported before the tsunami struck.

The New York Times newspaper warned last month that scattered reports of proselytizing in Sri Lanka, predominantly Muslim Indonesia as well as India, which has huge Hindu and Muslim populations, were arousing concerns that the goodwill spread by American relief efforts might be undermined by aid-motivated.

Of the 87 American aid organizations providing tsunami relief, 30 are religiously-affiliated, including Jewish, Christian and Muslim, the Becket Fund said Friday.

Severino said there was resentment against Western NGOs doing relief work in Sri Lanka, citing strong objections by Buddhist political leaders over any channeling of aid via World Vision, a Christian relief group.

Buddhist monks have claimed that World Vision might use 11 million dollars collected from an international cricket match for "unethical religious conversions." AFP

First flights between China, Taiwan begin after 55 years

DRAGON dancers perform as Taiwanese passengers board a China Eastern flight bound for Taipei at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai Jan. 29. AFP

TAIPEI—The first direct flights between little rivals China and Taiwan since the end of a civil war 55 years ago started Sunday, carrying Lunar New Year holidaymakers amid hopes for improving cross-strait relations.

Six Chinese planes landed in Taipei and one in southern Kaohsiung, while Taiwan's China Airlines and EVA Airways also each sent a flight in Beijing on the first day of the historic reopening of the air links.

China's flag carrier Air China flew two planes from its subsidiary Shangdong Airlines to unveil dressing the mainland flag in Taiwan.

Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, who is constantly accusing the Beijing regime of "defeatism," said the landmark flights proved "difficulties can be overcome as long as the two sides have sincerity and a desire to negotiate."

Chen also urged Beijing to allow the aircraft to fly over the airspace of other countries, rather than just Hong Kong, as with the current service, the United Daily News has reported.

Passengers and crew aboard the flights that first landed in Taiwan were greeted at Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek International Airport by government officials, parliamentarians and business representatives.

"The new landscape of commercial flights is a historic step to cross-strait relations and it can serve as model to settle future bilateral issues," said Chiu Tai-san, chair of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, who greeted them in a red carpet welcome.

"Reaching an agreement allowing the flights across the two sides are akin to shelve their political differences in order to seek mutual benefits," he told Mainland crew, "and China after the first two mainland planes landed.

A pro-unification group was also waiting to greet the mainland planes at the terminal.

"Let's welcome the first direct flights which have contributed greatly to the future reunification of the two sides," shouted one man who was wearing a national Taiwan flag.

China Southern Airlines flight CZ3997 touched down at about 9:10 a.m. after leaving the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou at 8 a.m. to become the first mainland plane flying in the island-run since.

It was followed by five other mainland carriers departing from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou and one mainland plane to southern Kaohsiung, transporting a total of about 1,300 people.

The two Beijing-bound Taiwanese flights, which carried about 500 passengers, were met by beijing-suffered but in a more welcome and accommodating.

"I am so excited to join this historic moment," said one of the passengers onboard Southern Airlines, Chen Wei-nan, the secretary-general of Taiwan's tourism association in Guangzhou in China's Guangdong province. AFP

China, Boeing seal $7.2-B deal for 60 Dreamliners

WASHINGTON—Aerospace giant Boeing scored a major victory Friday against European rival Airbus with a multibillion-dollar deal to sell 60 of its new 787 "Dreamliner" passenger jets to Chinese airlines.

Boeing signed a preliminary agreement with Chinese officials in Washington for the aircraft, worth more than $7.2 billion, based on list prices.

The carriers—Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Hainan Airlines, Shanghai Airlines and Xiamen Airlines—will have at least one of the new planes for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the company said.

The deal provides a major boost for Boeing's efforts to launch its new fuel-efficient jetliner in the global marketplace.

Boeing at the same time formally renamed the aircraft the Boeing 787 Dreamliner—ending the long line of Boeing "7"-series" aircraft that include the B747 and B777.

"The momentum behind the 787 continues to build," said Alan Mulally president and chief executive of Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

"We're honored to have these key Chinese airlines choose the 787 and join our launch team. The 787's advantages in efficiency, economics, environmental performance and passenger comforts are perfectly matched for China's growing, world-class aviation system."

"The 787 is the perfect airplane to welcome the world to China during the 2008 Beijing Olympics," said Li Hai, president of China Aviation Supplies Co., one of the companies in a Washington signing ceremony.

"It will be the most technologically advanced commercial airplane in the world with more amenities to offer our passengers, and fuel efficiency that is only surpassed by its environmental."

Production of the 787 will begin in 2006. The first flight is expected in 2007 with deliveries starting in 2008. AFP

Review with the world leader in test prep.

ICSEC-KAPLAN

The pathway to global career opportunities

KAPLAN Overseas
- ICSEC
- TOEFL
- GMAT
- LSAT
- GRE
- MCAT
- PTE

Kaplan Professional
- NCLEX-RN
- CAREERCOACH EVERY DAY
- CAREERCOACH CLASS STARTS
- NLE REFRESHER COURSE

TOEFL | TOEIC | GRE | GMAT | LSAT | MCAT | NCLEX-RN | NLE | PTE

Immigrate to Nova Scotia (Canada)
NOVA SCOTIA NOMINEE PROGRAM
Mr. Richard Nielsen-Bastidor & Solicitor & member of
Law Society-BC will be in Manila on March 7 - 11, 2005

Standard Immigration Services Inc.
Tel: 712-1136; 926-2867; 927-1601; 926-1401-4109
E-Mail: standardimigphilippines@yahoo.com

TOURS

Adam's

CASH FOR YOUR DIAMONDS

We Accept Any Type Of Diamond

Cash Against Sale Item

Cash

All transactions strictly confidential

CASH PAID INSTANTLY

JEWELLER

Tel./Fax: (02) 8000-8115-2181

University of the Philippines Law Center
INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ATTENTION: LAWYERS

FOR NON COMPLETION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE MCLE 36-UNIT REQUIREMENT DURING THE 36th COMPLIANCE PERIOD WHICH WAS EXTENDED TO, AND EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2004, YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM NOTICE TO FILE A RESPONSE, EXPLAINING THE "DEFICIENCY" OR CONFORMANCE SHOWING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT AND PAY THE NON-COMPLIANCE FEE OF P1,000.00.

IF YOU FAIL TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION AND HAVE SUCH PAYMENT, THEN A RECOMMENDATION WILL BE MADE TO YOU AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS THAT YOU WILL BE LISTED AS A DELINQUENT MEMBER OF THE IBP AND SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ADEQUATE PROOF OF COMPLIANCE IS RECEIVED BY THE MCLE GOVERNING BOARD. Source of this Compliance to be issued by the Supreme Court Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office.

Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Center for Continuing Education

Marketing Core Program
"Up to Speed with Global Competitiveness"

An integrated program ideal for executives, managers, and entrepreneurs seeking to develop their marketing skills and gain exposure to the latest marketing advance and trends.

From Basic Marketing Management to highly advanced competitive strategies the program is designed to pursue creative marketing juices from participants and transform them to Marketing Warriors ready to win against all odds.

Course Overview:
Marketing Management, Focus on the Consumer, Marketing Information Management, Power Pricing, Integrated Marketing Communications, Sales Management Today, Competitive Analysis and Competitive Marketing Strategies

ROLL-OUT DATE: March 1 - April 21

Other Offerings:
Marketing Management (Feb. 3 - 5)
Sales Management Today (Feb. 23 - 25)
Challenges of Customer Buying Behavior (Feb. 24 - 25)
Creative Approaches to Complaints Handling (Feb. 17 - 18)
Negotiation Skills I (Feb. 10 - 11)

Our courses are also available as individual from or on customized, customized basis. Interested applicants may contact us at 02.840.2000 or 02.840.7400 or visit www.ccs.ateneo.edu

ATENEO-BAP INSTITUTE OF BANKING

Banking

Treasury Operations
Feb. 8 - 11
Understanding of Treasury Investor and various Treasury Products, for Client and Middle Management Level Treasury Department Officers and Treasury Traders

These courses are updated as per Basel II Accord
Techniques of Financial Analysis
Feb. 28 - Apr. 1
Provides basic concepts and tools in analyzing and interpreting financial data for those making credit decisions

The Credit Analysis
Feb. 28 - Mar. 4
Provides basic tools for analyzing the credit worthiness of firms and individuals through a comprehensive skills-development procedure in evaluating and rating candidates

Credit Risk Management Programs Module 1
Internal Credit Risk Ratings and Risk Measurement
Feb. 23 - 25
Provides tools and practical applications in managing banking relationships consistent with best international practices
*Modules 1 and 2 will be offered in March

Practical Application of Treasury Risk Management
Mar. 9 - 11
Provides insight to "theoretical" and "practical" aspect of risk management techniques, specifically the application of various risk methodology concepts

For complete course details and other offerings, contact us at 02.840.2000 or 02.840.7400 or visit www.ccs.ateneo.edu

Finance

Finance 101
Feb. 23 - Feb. 25
A "user-friendly," yet comprehensive way of examining the finance function in the corporate setting, its scope of responsibilities and authorities, and linkages with other segments of the organization

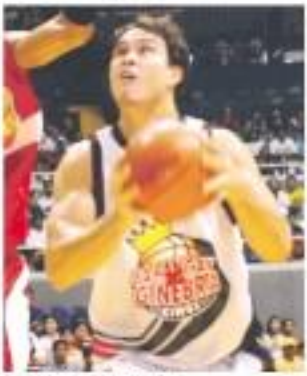
Accounting for Non-Accountants I
Mar. 9 - 12
A guide to understand how business transactions are recorded, summarized for management reporting and decision making purposes through hands-on practical applications of theories and concepts in the "accounting cycle"

Accounting for Non-Accountants II
Mar. 14 - 15
An "accounting toolbox" to get more usefulness of data and security to financial recordkeeping and transactions processing. Handling and controlling cash; on-actual accounting issues in managing day-to-day affairs of a firm

Investing, Trading and Marketing Fixed Income Securities
Feb. 16 - 18
A guide to the common qualities of fixed income securities and how an entrepreneurial outlook on identifying trends will favorable trading opportunities

Fundamentals of Securitization
Feb. 9 - 11
A guide to various financial markets for trading and the market factors strategically to investors. For finance people in real estate, leasing, consumer finance, credit card issuers, investing and money lending businesses.

Kings out to prove they're tops



HERE: It doesn't matter if Tenkers plays.

KISS if Asi Taulava rains up for Talk 'N Text, Barangay Ginebra still looks forward to giving coach Jim Tanquingcen a victory ride and hoisting the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup championship trophy.

"They're not underdogs but the Kings are brimming with confidence following their established victory over the San Miguel Beermen last Friday night to reach the best-of-seven finals against the Phone Pals starting today.

"It doesn't matter if he (Tenkers) plays or not," said Eric Menk after presenting the Kings gun the Beermen, 90-71, to Game 1 of their best-of-five semifinal duel.

"We're going on three and we're, just to win. We think we're the best team in the league. We have proven it to the elimination and the semifinals and we will prove it again," added Menk.

Backed by a boisterous crowd every game, Barangay and the Kings are sure installed as the favorites in the title series, more so with Talk 'N Text yet to win over Barangay Ginebra this conference.

On both occasions, however, Taulava was forced to sit out after serving a suspension imposed by the league based on a disposition of Justice ruling that the 2003 PBA MVP had faked his relationship documents.

"If he plays, he plays. We just have to deal with it," said Tanquingcen. "Whether he plays or not, going to be an advantage for we have (Jeff) Chandler, Andy (Seigle) and Norman (Jackson) to step him anyway."

Mark Caguioa has also predicted victory for the Kings, saying the team is not after their win over the Beermen.

"To tell you the truth, I find San Miguel their much more difficult to deal with. They (Beermen) are more experienced and disciplined," said Caguioa. "It's not saying we underestimate (our Game) one we (Game) with Talk 'N Text but San Miguel is more difficult to handle."

Caguioa believes management edge and momentum are on their side.

"You'll never know what will happen in the Finals but for sure, we're going to win," said Caguioa.

The Phone Pals are aiming to do phone their 2003 All Filipino Cup title while the Kings aim to grab their second straight crown.

CAGUIOA: For sure, we're going to win.

PBA warned on keeping Asi 'frozen'

By Philip C. Tobias

VIOLENT reacting on dangerous grounds.

Schaefer H. Francisco, counsel of Talk 'N Text owners Paul G. Yuchengco, yesterday warned the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) of doing a "patently illegal act" by barring his client from playing in the PBA Philippine Cup Finals starting today.

No other choice! Justice Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez said he has no choice but to follow a Quezon City court order directing the league to lift its suspension of Taulava and allowing him to play.

Preventing Taulava from playing would be a direct defiance of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court's order on Jan. 20, which Francisco said was "effective immediately."

"The PBA can come up with excuses to bar Taulava from playing, but those considerations should not change the fact that the PBA will be defying a direct order from a court of law," Francisco said.

Francisco reiterated his warning that he would initiate contempt proceedings against those who would stop Taulava from playing.

He said he wrote the PBA board on Friday to stress that the court's writ of preliminary injunction order was immediately effective, contrary to the "misguided legal opinion" of PBA commissioner Bill Eala.

Francisco said Eala was wrong in claiming that the motion for reconsideration filed by the PBA before the Quezon City court held in abeyance the execution of the writ.

The lawyer said the court order restraining Taulava "effective immediately" in the PBA All Filipino conference set for Jan. 31, 2004.

"The court order says: mamo-ganyan, meaning that Asi is to be considered by the PBA as if he has not served any suspension. I'm eligibility which was suspended by the PBA has been restored by the order of the Quezon City court," Francisco said.

Ramos new FedEx Express coach

THE RUMORS are true.

MCET president and Public Express team manager Lito Alvarez yesterday confirmed the buzz in basketball circles that veteran "Bong" Ramos, a former coach of the Indonesian national basketball team, will handle the head coaching reins of the Best Line-owned franchise.

Ramos will be coaching the FedEx Express in the coming season," Alvarez announced after approving Ramos' three-year deal, the details of which were not released. "We are very excited and very optimistic that our young Express team will finally be over the hump soon."

Alvarez added that Ramos was himself formerly associated with MCET as the season assistant was a former deputy of head coach Ronnie Garcia with the Laguna Lakers team of Line in the Asiatics Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA).

"We know him (Ramos) personally and his work ethics and this made the talks very easy and smooth-sailing," said Alvarez, who also revealed that Garcia, despite his appointment as chairman of Customs Commission, will very much a "hands-on" owner of the team.

"I find no mainstreaming sports as part of life. Line," said Alvarez. "It's a matter of fact, he had a heart to heart talk with our new coach and expressed his wishes.

Judging from his Garcia's smile as the end of their talk, I think he liked what he heard from our new coach."

Helping Ramos at the FedEx Express bench are his Pinoy and Indonesian assistants Rolando Valeriano and Rudy Hatuman.

On Philippine Basketball League Open Conference finals.

"This is a new challenge and I welcome it wholeheartedly," said Ramos, whose contract with Ramos model last October. "The Express team is a young, hungry team with unlimited potential. It's just a matter of whipping the team into one fighting unit. I have good visions for the team, but we will take it one conference at a time.

"We'll set small goals, until we reach the month of our vision, which is a PBA championship for the team."

Ramos brings with him a wealth of professional coaching experience, having guided the Indonesian national team to the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam, where his wards almost pulled the rug from under the Philippine quintet.

Before that, Ramos was also assistant coach of the Philippine Team that ventured in title to the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

Compton sees Montaña win over Welcoat in PBL Finals

COMPTON (right): There's no pressure.

By Hisang R. Castillo

ALEX Compton has had success everywhere he went.

From a flamboyant young guard in the defunct MBA in the late decade to being a television sensational model and special events host, Compton has left his mark.

It took quite a while to retiring, but the 30-year-old is up for a final appearance in the Philippine Basketball League.

And he's taken Montaña and the rest of the Jewels with him.

The Jewels cast their best-of-five series for the Open championship with Welcoat on Tuesday and Compton tried on hand to downplay the fact that he was the vital ingredient who they are later and will continue to be if they are to win.

"Because I'm also in the team, we had seven different best players," Compton said during the league's media day Friday. "It took total team effort for us to get to where we are and it won't be different when we play."

"There are a lot of valuable players in our team," Compton said.

"I will treat the just like any other (Jewels I played in)," added Compton, who won titles with Montaña and Batangas in the 2004. "There's no pressure, if that's what you mean."

Montaña comes into the title series a powerhouse rolling with a pair titles established a "Welcoat" dynasty a few years back.

The Pure Montes will be seeking seven in their 19th PBL title series and three third straight in the last two seasons.

Their last two titles have been beatless, making Welcoat a long, grueling like Montaña.

All the games in the series will be played at the league's home— the Makati Coliseum—and aside from Compton, Al Stegen and Jondee Salvador will play vital roles if Montaña is to extend the series to maximum.

Former professionals Marvin Ortigoza and Chester Tolomia will lead the Pure Montes superstar with promising 6-6 six Anthony Washington.

The two teams took different routes in making the championship series, with Montaña sweeping past Gramy Goons and Welcoat coming back from a Game 1 loss to thwart the wings of Magnolia Hot Shots.

"It's all about Jones and I are proud of what we have achieved," said Welcoat coach Caloy Garcia. "I think this series is pretty even."

Compton appeared to be the one most at ease during the favorite day and knew how to answer a tickish question everyone who going into a title series: "Montaña will win, I just don't know in how many games."

The music of sound

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT WAS Sade who said it first: "The music of sound."

Sade, Mayo's lovable singer and the "Ace" of Mayo, always referred to "The sounds of Music" as "The Music of Sound." She loves Do-Re-Mi so much she can watch it all day long and every night without showing any signs of exhaustion.

Is the line "the music of sound" wrong? Not to me.

Any sound can be music. And any music can be sound.

And since we are at it again, here's more about "The Golden Legends" of Steve Clifford, a.k.a. Dancer Gamesmen of GSIS 100.3, who will bring in the Pepsi and Gordon sound next month. Gordon will perform with Dennis Pepe ("Speaker") and Chris Montez ("Call Me") at the Music Theater on 9th, 11 and Hard Rock Café on Feb. 13-14.

Gordon is a basic balladeer and he'll render you sweets such "Romeo," "Once Upon When," "I Go To Pieces," "It's Now Or Never," "It Is Love You," "Stuff on the Heart," "Little Miller," "I'll Throw Who You" and "Let It Be Me."

Dennis Red is the voice of Do Classics IV release hits include "Stormy," "Stormy" and "Traces." Chris Montez immortalized songs like "The Girl from Ipanema" and "The More I See You."

Anna Oris, featuring John Lennon and Ramona Jackson, will open the line show. Anna Oris will also perform at the Hard Rock Café. For ticket details, call 891-0000.

Here's a bit on Gordon, the other half of the Peter and Gordon duo.

Gordon Waterman Sinclair Waller was born in Scotland and grew up in England. A doctor's son, Gordon, now 59, attended the prestigious Westminster Sean School where he met Peter Asher.

Originally known as Gordon and Peter, the twosome later switched names because "it sounded better."

In 1964, the two were discovered by record producer Norman Newell while playing a two-week gig at the Pickwick Club in London.

It wasn't an easy ride to the top for Peter and Gordon. The pair won 63 demo tapes before signing a recording contract with Columbia. What boosted their career was Beatle Paul McCartney writing songs for them. McCartney, who was then courting Peter's sister, Jane, wrote "A World Without Love" for the tandem. Within two weeks after its release to record buys, the song zoomed to No. 1 in the UK charts and eventually sold over a million copies around the world. It also became No. 1 in the US and nine other countries. Surprisingly, the song dislodged "She Loves" from the No. 1 spot in the English charts after a nine-week residence.

Another McCartney composition, "Nobody I Know," was a million seller for Peter and Gordon although it peaked at No. 35 in the UK and No. 12 in the US. McCartney also wrote "I Don't Want To See You Again" (US No. 11) and "Woman" (US No. 28, US No. 14), under the pseudonym Bernard Webb, for the pair.

McCartney wasn't the only songwriter who produced hits for the duo.

Del Shannon contributed "I Go To Pieces" (US No. 6), while The Searchers turned it down in 1965. "Your Love Stays" (US No. 2) was a Buddy Holly original.

In 1964, Peter and Gordon embarked on their first US tour that started at the Metrolife Bay in New York and ended in Honolulu.

The duo split up in 1968.

Gordon worked as a disc jockey on BBC2 TV's "The Bachelors," recorded solo singles and a solo album. He did land, singing and gardening and appeared as the Phantom, dressed like his idol, Elvis Presley, in the Tim Rice musical, Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat." His role as the Phantom began in 1971 at the Edinburgh Festival and took him to London and finally Australia, where he got married in 1975.

Gordon also worked as a voiceover for Bank Boss and invested in a company making exotic commercials in Strathamp, vendors. He formed a music publishing company called Steele Weller International Ltd. and oversee the soundtrack for the film "Come Home — Back with Boy Billy." He now lives in California.

Steve Clifford's coming capes at the Hard Rock Café includes dinner and wine. Seats are limited, however, so I'm going to call and reserve now (8924661 to 64). And yes, Steve, do you really want me to ask for Peter to do "A World Without Love" with Gordon? If I agree, I know Gordon and I may yet make "The music of sound" of the 90s.

BUY ONE NOW, GET ONE HALF OFF!
E-mail sale [illegible]

Asian Moto starts Feb.4

GLENN Aguilar and the rest of the 30 Motorbox riders shall then speed to inside Asian Motocross supremacy as the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship series kicks off Feb. 4-6 in Manila, DMX.

Aguilar, the 2003 FIM Asian Motocross champion, rose on this verge of clinching back-to-back titles after he finished 4th overall in last year's title chase won down the wire against Japanese Yukikazu Ohnishi in Macau.

He took his bobsled at the start of the race but suffered a spill on the leg, paving the way for Ohnishi to run away with the 2004 Asian Motocross title.

Among Aguilar in the premiere 125cc event is Cabiao Bertoni teammate Kenneth San Andres who debuted in the motorsports mess in Macau last year, finishing 14th among 23 riders.

Ed. Jockey Rafael Enriquez and Harve Rojas Asia Irish Riles will be the country's bets in the Formula class of the team series. After returning from Macau last year, the pair have gone into figure-out training in Iloilo but to no avail in the encore from 2004 Asian Formula champion Dave Leonard Ocampo.

Enriquez and Riles ended up as runners-up to the Kuwaiti rider in 2004.

Those top four riders received berths to the Qatari bound IDF Motocross Team in MANGAS gambling event – the first leg of the Philippine National Motocross Series held at the Clark Eagles Raceway last week.

Aguilar, San Andres, Enriquez and Riles topped their respective classes to bolster the Philippine contingent's hopes in Qatar.

ARTIST: Ball going strong at 10

Bata, Django top favorites in 9-ball tilt

THE QUALIFYING round of the P1-million Philippine Open 9-ball championship has been moved to Feb. 13-15 in the IBC 13 complex in Quezon City, tournament director Ruby Vicente announced yesterday.

Only eight slots are up for grabs in the two-day, 48-table tourney, which is open to all players with professional licenses from the Games and Amusement's Board.

All matches will be race-to-7 with the winners joining the likes of Alvin "Bata" Reyes and Django Bustamante in the impressive 64 players.

"We encourage all billiards maniacs to join," said Vicente in Filipino. "Part of the intent of this tournament is to discover new talents in the country."

The tournament, dubbed "Best of the Best II Pinoy 9-ball Tour," will be held Feb. 21-27 at, on the IBC 13 complex.

The 39-year-old Reyes is coming off a banner year, with him winning the One Pocket and 8-Ball/20 Items of the second Derby Classic in Louisville, Kentucky.

He still sets out as the favorite, together with Bustamante and reigning world champ Alex Pagulayan.

Adele Owen Reyes, the leading money winner last year with winnings of more than US$13,150, Bustamante and Pagulayan, the other seeded players in the event proper are:

BUSTAMANTE

Ian Victor Corteza, Warren Kiamco, Rodolfo Luat, Rodolfo Luat, Antonio Gabica, Ronnie Alcano, Lee Vann Corteza, Francisco Bustamante, Christopher Melgar, Dennis Orcollo, Ramil Gallanosa, Lee Tsuyu, Antonio Lining, Roberto Gomez, Jeffrey de Luna, Jeffrey Ignacio, Jose Parica, Jr., Ronnie Alcano, Marlon Manalo, Rodolfo Luat, Antonio Gabica, Warren Kiamco, Rodolfo Luat, Ian Victor Corteza, Christopher Melgar, Lee Vann Corteza, Francisco Bustamante, Ronnie Alcano

INQUIRER

OPINION

Publisher Isaac Tarnet
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe No. 2 Nolasco
Associate Editor Rolando A. Librojo
Associate Editor for Special Projects Ramon E. Esmerio
News Editor Antonio T. Carpio Jr. / Chief News Desk Editor Nasi B. Nolasco
Opinion Editor Lorie V. Aves
Associate Editor Francisco R. Rodriguez Jr.
City Editor Dino Lim
Associate Editor Jose V. Sandoval Jr.
Editorial Consultant Ramon Esmerio
Chief Photographer Edgar M. Garrido
Art & Design Director Lisbeth A. Velasco

Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexandre Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for News and Marketing Ramon R. Prieto
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services Cheryll R. Ong
Office Administrator Teresa B. Cleofas
Advertising Director Lucio P. Lantin III

All rights reserved. No part may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and its respective publishers. Unauthorized use may be subject to civil liabilities and criminal penalties under applicable laws.

The new team

EDITORIAL

AT LEAST this much can be said about the President's new Cabinet appointments. They don't have "political pushback" written all over them.

This time around, the list of appointees is not burdened by an underqualified ex-senator like Ramon Revilla or an underbrigaded Cebu congressman like Ace Durano, who never climbed low enough out of their political cocoon to shed their management scorners.

The new finance secretary, Cesar Purisima, is already a known quantity, as a former SGV managing partner turned trade and industry secretary. (Having given up his high-paying job to serve as an after-ego of the President only months before last year's elections, he was the easiest bet to stay on in the Cabinet.) His replacement at the Department of Trade and Industry, Juan Santos, is even better known in business and political circles, as the longtime president of Nestlé Philippines.

Raphael Lotilla, who wins the energy portfolio in April, is just as well known, but he has a record at the National Economic and Development Authority (where he was assistant secretary general) and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (where he is president) that recommended him to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Alberto Lina, the new Customs commissioner, is a well-known entrepreneur, not least because of his sponsorship of basketball teams. He runs the successful local franchise of Federal Express. (Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner Guillermo Parayno was "privatized upon" to stay, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.)

The reaction of both the business sector—and by implication the international investment community—was summed up in the welcoming words of the executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. "They look like solid, serious businesspeople and that is what we need," Robert Seese said.

Of course, none of this is to say that a businessman or a technocrat necessarily has the nation's best interests at heart.

Already militant groups have taken aim at Santos, whose term at Nestlé was marked by outbreaks of labor unrest. And questions are being raised about Lina, who is himself in the customs brokerage business. (Lina is also the older brother of ex-Laguna governor Joey Lina, a close Arroyo ally.)

But President Arroyo would have done the country a disservice if she had appointed, say, another clutch of politicians or the country's new economic managers. That would have sent the wrong signal to decision-makers here and abroad. And the impact would have been both immediate and lasting.

We aren't even talking of foreign investments, which others come, as the expression goes, with strings attached. We are talking about local businessmen choosing between expanding in the country and putting their money abroad, about fund managers and credit analysts looking for signs of political will in our sometimes nonbusinesslike democracy, about middle-class citizens weighing a decision to take out a loan for a car or a house.

If a politician had been named to head the Department of Finance, for instance, say as part of a deal with the opposition, the immediate upmost would have skewed the economy.

Ramos was understandably upbeat in announcing the appointments. "The ongoing revamp projects a renewed sense of continuity and direction towards the realization of the President's 10-point agenda, as a new team is brought in to pull the economic carriage forward," he said.

(A curious choice of metaphor, that. Ramos's image assumes an "economic carriage" that is not only underpowered but even unconnected. For the carriage to move, the new economic managers have to pull it forward. What, is the carriage stuck in a rut?)

Now the burden is on the appointees to work smart, and to work as a team. (Already, Lotilla has been warned by his former teacher, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, that he had only six months in which to show he was up to the job.) Their challenge is to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty at home and to restore institutional confidence abroad. More than ever, these twin objectives are mutually dependent. They define the nation's best interests.

Hoping for justice

SEPARATE OPINION

Augustin A. Cruz

GIS Carlos Garcia, who shocked the nation with his P1.6 million fortune despite his monthly salary of only P95,000 is now facing charges before the court martial for conduct unbecoming and, in the civil courts, for unexplained wealth, perjury, and other criminal crimes. His subordinates in the AFP comptroller office are also being investigated for similar unexplained affluence amounting likewise to millions of pesos they presumably could not have acquired legitimately.

Among them is retired Gen. Jacinto Ligot who once enjoin the government of coconut farmers' properties in his name, including Rolando Mendiola and Ligot's signature also appear on the deeds of sale of the coconut properties. Ligot's compatible with his lawful income while serving in AFP comptroller during the term of Gen. Angelo Reyes as chief of staff. Especially noteworthy are the frequent trips abroad of Mrs. Ligot, often in the company of Mrs. Reyes, to various cities in the United States, Europe and Asia at not inconsiderable expenses. In addition to the cost of such travels, the general has at least four lot beautifully acquired several valuable properties here and two houses in Californian resorts worth millions of dollars.

Another officer whose apparently wealth has caused eyebrows to [illegible] is Lt. Col. Joseph A. Robles, who is now facing criminal prosecution and more since how he became a multimillionaire on his modest salary as an AFP officer. The owner of his luxurious home was detailed recently by Senator Roxas in his column appropriately called "Gotcha" to include bank accounts, real estate, cars and other investments totaling to much to P34 million. His wife, who is also a frequent traveller abroad, usually with Mrs. Reyes, also owns several valuable properties and bank accounts, either with her husband in their own daughters, amounting to P16 million.

Revelation of the mysterious travels abroad of Mrs. Reyes, often with Mrs. Ligot or Mrs. Robles, has fueled suspicions also of the Reyeses. The late Gen Mendiolan Ligot and Rolando's acquisitive spouses were under Gen. and Reyes when he was AFP chief of staff has deepened this summer, particularly since Reyes' record is more-or-less silent online. While secretary of national defense, he was questioned since his P10 million trust-out to Ben Bautista that he could not have afforded with his limited income as a Cabinet member. He resigned as such and the probe was discontinued in it by having the public servant question has fast evaporated.

He was soon back as anti-kidnapping czar and is now secretary of the interior and local government. But the former charge against him has not been revived. He says that the high-priced building lots bought by Bautista by his brother, who must be opulent in his own right. But does not call the lessee of the lots, sometimes with him and often with the wives of his subordinates to the different call for clients, considering their frequency and possible public exposure. No wonder that the Commission on Appointments has not been too ready to confirm his nomination by the apparently wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The wives of the aforementioned generals also have cries to explain about the number of their foreign travels and the cost of such group excursions, in view of the supposedly humble earnings of their respective husbands. Mrs. Reyes says she recorded abroad 30 times during the past 12 years and some of the trips took her husband went official, charged to our government or the host country. If he she go as the general's aide-de-camp? Mrs. Ligot, who married 20 times from 1990 to 2004, was her usual companions. Mrs. Robles, who accompanied Mrs. Reyes once to Singapore, toured Europe, America, Asia and included 10 times for the past nine years at the estimated airline expense alone of Mr. millions. On top of all these, Mrs. Ligot and Mrs. Robles are co-owners with their husbands of questionable investments and property acquisitions that are disproportionate to their humble lawful income.

Another general whose investigation for illegal and unexplained wealth has been entombed is former AFP chief Leandro Mendiola, who claims persecution after the original charge against him has, he says, already been dismissed. Two unrelenting or him again on the suspicion of another crony—quite the AFP that has seen but the hard-working people of the country as the defender and not of enemies of the nation.

And while we're opening this one of worms, why doesn't the ombudsman get moving against that too? The Freedom Constitution called for the ombudsman "to all suspicious retainers of the previous regime," but they are still here in both and worse in. If the many cases filed against Imelda Marcos, only one has resulted in her conviction, which was affirmed by the Third Division of the Supreme Court but eventually reversed by the Court en banc. Even the P25.5 billion on deliveries adjudged against her remains unenforced while the lives remain remote in luxury while claiming poverty.

Pa still chance the 1946 amnesty of Hukbalahaps? Some wonder if we might as well let back to the Marcos dependencies. We will remind cynics to echo wicked pun under the government finally vendors, junior alive in long-tailored and long-remembered slumber. Let it not be said of us that, as Benjamin Franklin warns, "He that lies upon a rope will die living."

'BE' attitudes

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a proud lion who visited a city zoo. "Hey, mouse. I'm getting married. What's the best advice you can give?" the lion asked.

"Just remember this my friend, I see you often before I get married," said the mouse.

* * *

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Ps. 1:1-2, 3; 4, 6; Jesus puts forth the Beatitudes which, on closer examination, are not new words but a reversal in the eyes of this world. They are guidelines for he a means, not for riches, the world will tell us. But, both again and give it a try, and you'll realize that there is no greater power than good actions of hearts. Either "BE" attitudes [illegible] contrast to "DON'T BE" attitudes can we learn from the Beatitudes?

* * *

First, BE POOR in spirit. (I like to start by curses and words, as many never know what it is like to be dependent on God.) We may even forget the next life because we have such security in this world. They are guidelines for he a means, not for riches, the world will tell us. But, both again and give it a try, and you'll realize that there is no greater power than good actions of hearts. Either "BE" attitudes [illegible] contrast to "DON'T BE" attitudes can we learn from the Beatitudes?

* * *

First, BE POOR in spirit. (I like to start by curses and words, as many never know what it is like to be dependent on God.) We may even forget the next life because we have such security in this life. Before we know it, we may begin to think that the world revolves around us, and that we actually can get and control anything we desire.

* * *

BE HOPEFUL. Amid problems and confusion in this world, let us be comforted with the thought that there is no complete happiness in this world, and that we who don't live a homeless, happy life now, will have the Kingdom of God as our reward. God has promised that He will turn our mourning in to joy and that He has prepared a place for us where every tear will be wiped away.

* * *

BE HUMBLE. Let us not go the way of the haughty and the proud, for it leads to the fall. Let us not think of ourselves bigger than what we really are. We are just "dust to the road," and we are sometimes think and act as if we were some immortable monsters. With Mary as her Magnificat, may we always remember that the Lord "casts the mighty from their thrones and lifts up the lowly."

* * *

BE STEADFAST. Let us hold on to our goodness especially when we are tempted to follow the ways of the world. Let us hold on to the truth, and continue to search for the truth, and stand for what is good and true. God is always on the side of the truthful, and with God on our side, we can be confident, and we can speak our truth quietly and clearly.

* * *

BE MERCIFUL. Remember, we too have been shown mercy in many times, so we must be compassionate and understanding especially to some "little ones." The measure of mercy is the measure we use, the beautiful saying goes a short. Let us not be touching and calculating. Instead, reach out, go forward, and be generous.

* * *

BE GOOD. Let us not envy those who seem to prosper by evil ways, and let us not be carried by the current of this world that seeks pleasure and comfort by all means, by whatever means. In the long run, crime does not pay. Goodness pays, and goodness shall be its own reward.

* * *

BE PEACEFUL. The "Greatness" pass is as beautifully "to be as possible, without serious, be on good terms with all people." Be a bridge rather than a wall. Be a source of joy to people rather than a monument that drop out people. Remember, it is easier to divide them to unite, to destroy rather than to build, to exercise than to encourage. Let us continue to build and to encourage anyone because we have to make peace in the peace in your own little way.

* * *

BE STRONG. Persecutions should not shame or discourage us. If we suffer because of righteousness, let us console ourselves with the thought that we did not cop out or call out on the Lord, who reigns in us to be strong amid adversities and persecutions. Let us continue to be salt of the earth and light of the world, and let us not give up our goodness all the time.

* * *

BE STILL. There are so many and immediate rewards for us who follow the Beatitudes in this world, but let still and know that God is God, and the will make true His promises. The assurance in these that He will be such, is, and the will not abandon us, especially when we are troubled and persecuted for His sake.

* * *

Finally, BE HAPPY. Rejoice and be glad "for your reward will be great in Heaven." But even in this world, amid persecutions, difficulties, and [illegible] oppressions, we can experience true peace, serenity and joy if we follow these "BE" attitudes derived from the Beatitudes.

* * *

I just came from my first trip to Bacnotan, and there I experienced the Beatitudes concretely in so many ways. Not only in the place in beautiful and serene, but also are the people who live out the Gospel values of simplicity, honesty, hospitality, generosity and so many. It was like swallowing a cool cool from the usual barrage of socio-political-economic woes of our country, for a while, I thought I was not in the Philippines. Let us all try to live out and concretize the Beatitudes in our daily lives.

* * *

A sentence with the Lord.

Lord, help me to live the "BE" attitudes derived from the Beatitudes. Amen.

How to discourage savings

REVILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE CULTURE of savings among Filipinos has been the butt of many a sneering gesture. The days when we encouraged our children to save by putting them with piggy banks appear to be a thing of the past. I remember my parents pressuring me with a piggy bank when I should play ball. Once the loose coins that crept were used there came my way. In the beginning, it was great fun experiencing the growing weight of my toy depository. Unfortunately, what that meant more and I wanted to get out some money, I realized that it was virtually impossible to do so without destroying the container. So I had to wait until the piggy bank was reasonably heavy and only then did I feel justified in cracking it with impact.

Today, the Philippines has one of the lowest savings rates in the region. Part of the reason is that our government has not been actively supporting savings programs. Last, we will recall, attempts to tax the rates, a law drawn inconsistency in the implementation of established policies on savings.

In 1963, a law was passed encouraging savings and loan associations as "mutual-help corporations for the purpose of encouraging thrift among their members," which would then be used primarily to serve the needs of their households by providing financial assistance for home building and development. Republic Act 4118 was also known as the Home Bank Savings and Loan Association (HBSLA) Law. The law was subsequently amended in 1997 as RA 8107 and provided incentives to these associations in the form of tax exemptions, making it more attractive for people to save. The purpose was to encourage thrift and savings on people more than acquired and modern consumption.

In July 2000, our legislators described the RA 8107 as a law that "will be the boost of the nation's policy "to encourage industry, frugality and accumulation of savings and judicious utilization of credit among the members of workers' savings and loan associations." Last week, Cebu Representative Pablo John Garcia, chairman of Representatives' panel on trade and development, a rationalized...House Bill No. 3205 amending the tax incentives of HSBLAs. And this was also taken after one hearty called committee hearing which did not provide adequate time for discussion with the concerned institutions.

But the benefits of tax exemptions and the general public, however explains the essence of setting up of HSBLAs.

The operational principle of the associations actually stems from the traditional "pakisamay" among members or group of friends residing in the neighborhood. Specializing these concepts over a certain period, members are induced into mutual savings which they can get as a pre-determined date in the future. Basically, the associations put together the savings which they then invest or which can be drawn on by members in time of need, at the end of the year, the surplus—after deducting all mandatory reserves, obligations—is distributed to the members in the form of dividends. Republic Act 4118 (known as well defined group. Members are usually employees of one company or government workers belonging to the same department, or individuals engaged in the same trade or profession. A minimum paid-in capital of P1 million is required of not all are considered unqualified by regular banks and lending institutions for one type of credit because of marginal salaries or because they have no collateral like title deeds.

What are the benefits available to HSBLA members? Let me point out the more important ones. First, they receive as used collateral-free loans among cases of emergency without having to submit collateral or endorsement. Second, in dealing with a regular bank. This is coupled with speed in the processing of the application. Second, lending interest rates are at minimum level similar to banks, which are limited for maximum profit. This is usually due to the fact that the HSBLAs is service-oriented while others is profit-oriented. But borrowers also benefit from their loans as it gives out an affordable repayment scheme, usually easing their financial burden. Third, aside from the usual salary loan, the members can avail of educational loans, pension loans, livelihood and housing loans.

Finally, members can receive more on their savings because of relatively higher interest rates offered by the HSBLAs.

As I mentioned earlier, most of the members of the HSBLA do not register the real merits of the private and public sectors. Inappropriately, there are the cashiers and soldiers who possess nothing of value acceptable as banks as collateral. Only gravedigger and individual lenders, like the neighborhood "5-6" operator, will provide them with credit in a usurious rates.

At least, as these government employees, like our own teachers, can run to the GSIS. If we can believe its press releases. Employees of private companies can run to the SSS. But the GSIS and SSS are not banks; whereas the HSBLAs are banks. They only loan their savings and investments.

As of second 2004, there were on record, 122 HSBLAs with a membership of about to a million needs total loan portfolio of almost P16 billion. To remove direct tax incentives at this time may mean additional earnings for the government. But on the other hand, these gains will diminish considerably with the contraction of the entire industry. This will in turn have a negative impact on the lives and well-being of a significant sector of our society.

The move to left the tax exemptions of these institutions is most seriously. It is a backward move which goes against established government's policies. We must continue to encourage not a people's savings but also to help people especially supplied to have an ill-not invest important as bringing in foreign investments.

Acceptable job loss

THERE are not the least of issues in the officials and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, the top revenue generating agencies of the government.

Until the enactment last week of the Executive Act, BIR and BOC personnel did not have to worry about losing their jobs, so long as they did not violate civil service rules and regulations. And it does take justifiable grounds for their dismissal, the

COMMENTARY

Raul C. Pangalangan

long-awaited reform initiative process of investigation, hearing and appeals in the Civil Service Commission gives them abounding spell of leisure to contemplate.

Now, things have changed. The second of the eight tax reform measures that the Arroyo administration wants from Congress has imposed "good performance" as one of the criteria for continued employment in the two government offices that are required to be the most predictable in the business.

This time, collection targets will be set annually for them. If they meet them, we have good, they will keep their jobs. In case they overshoot them, they will receive a portion of the surplus in the form of performance bonus. But if they fall short of the quota by at least 7.5 percent, the police responsible for the shortfall will be subjected to disciplinary action, which includes dismissal from the service.

To ensure the fair implementation of the reward and penalty mechanism, the law created a nine-member Revenue Performance Evaluation Board that will be headed by the finance secretary as its representative. This committee will have the final say on who gets rehabilitated pay for a job well done or who should be kicked out for inefficiency, incompetence or questionable performance.

Discrimination

It is no surprise that the affected employees strongly object to the latest attempt of the government to make public servants—not the entertainment of their pockets—the underlying reason for the reform. Last week, the Philippine Revenue Customs put them on the same level as the traffic enforcers in Metro Manila who get a commission from the traffic violations fines they collect from erring motorists!

A high-ranking official of the BIR employees union has served notice that his group will question before the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the law, arguing that the right of the BIR and BOC employees to the "equal protection of the law" is violated when, unlike other government employees, their failure to meet pre-set performance objectives is considered a ridiculed ground for their dismissal.

We forgive to comment on their thought that, unlike other government officials, the BIR and BOC are the agencies that collect fifty percent of the taxes needed to run the country and because of that responsibility, they are endowed with powers that, under ordinary circumstances, can be only exercised by the crooks.

With a minimum of fuss, the BIR can seize the bank deposits of taxpayers or summon the presidents of our biggest companies to appear before its investigators. And taxpayers will greek that once the concern or violation of statutes regulations. These agencies are not ordinary or run-of-the-mill government offices to say blunt/businessmen; they are in charge of their wives.

The last time I read my book in constitutional law, it said that "unless there are reasonable grounds for so doing, persons or data properties may be grouped into classes to such of which specific legal rights or liabilities may be attached."

Justification

Thus, for example, heavier emphasis (because of their physical stamina and assumed dexterity) on expert women rights under the Labor Code than on those of male employees. The same reason explains why some businesses in the country are off limits to foreigners and reserved exclusively for Filipino citizens.

The BIR and BOC personnel have nothing to lose if they such judicial intervention to enable them to hold on to their jobs despite their failure to meet the quotas set for them in relation to the country. The more than they would enable to earn their upward is expected in a few thousand pesos in earnings's fees, a pittance compared to the millions of pesos that change hands daily in orders the solicited or bribe offers.

It is assuming that the complaint of discrimination if valid, the remedy is not to dismiss the employees but to extend to them the same privileges that other government employees enjoy under the law.

Retail the government launched a lifestyle check, the probing areas of the BIR and BOC were virtual showcases of the latest status symbols, ranging from expensive cars to multi-million peso condominium units. The Bureau of Customs, the main customers of swanky bars or entertainment centers on the east and western sides decided how much a taxpayer should pay to settle his tax obligations.

Something is terribly wrong somewhere if an official or employee of the BIR or BOC can become his spouse values decided income to own more than P10 million a year, or afford to live in a mansion in an exclusive subdivision, pay the various fees of high-priced schools and drive cars of the latest models.

Responsibility

For obvious reasons, the BIR and BOC do not suffer from a dearth of applicants for jobs. Many of them are willing to accept the lucrative remuneration with the expenses. After years about low salary or bad reputation when the made-or-the-day opportunity to earn much, much more (and can they or don't) is "salvation" or career-boosting measure?

The Lateral Increase Law does not guarantee that these two government agencies will be free from their past associated with hundreds (they the Internal Commissioner ("Then shall not steal."). This only some of their "bright boys" must be already figuring out ways and means of going around the provisions of the law that may threaten their profitable livelihood.

Also, the legal profession is not running in numbers while, for a breakwater, will look for loopholes or ambiguities in the law that will save the interests of their clients even if in the process, the general interests of the public are sacrificed.

The hidden message of the law to the BIR and BOC is: you can continue with your merry ways as long as you deliver to the government the goods. If you don't, you will be treated by natural requirements. You can keep your low and even receive absolute if you meet the collection quota.

That's how bad the season's revenue gathering mechanism becomes.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
"The National Association of Philippine Newspapers"

Discovering one's 'inner dancer'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JOLIE may lose the icky movies of Body and Soul, Richard and Angel for juice or concoction. Our women would, for since Cruise, the same couple still had eyes—but it is "Shall We Dance," which opens in theaters next week.

Based on the 1996 Japanese original of the same title, "Shall We Dance?" transplants the setting to Chicago, where he becomes a middle-aged lawyer, John Clark (Richard Gere) finds himself seeking—much like his clients who hire him—an escape from his thirty to fifty—"Is that all there is?"

In all conventional standards, Clark is a man who has nothing left to wish for. He has his own law firm, beautiful wife and daughter, an attractive couple and their pets—that is "Shall We Dance"

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...
Editor Jaime N. Bautista Jr.

Who are the real agents of change? (2)

IN HIS debate with the party-list group Akbayan on Jan. 10 in this section, Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), accused former CPP leader Ricardo Reyes of being one of the masterminds of Kampanyang Ahos, an anti-infiltration campaign against suspected deep penetration agents (DPA) in Mindanao in 1985 and the early part of 1986.

Ahos is the Cebuano term for garlic, which in Philippine folklore is a potent weapon in warding off *demonyo* (demons, CPP parlance then for military agents). The anti-DPA campaign in Mindanao left hundreds of party cadres, guerrillas and mass activists dead. The campaign was first considered "quite successful" but with excesses. It was later denounced because it "perpetrated grievous violations of the individual rights of the suspects" and "the standards of due process."

The remains of many of the victims have not been found.

Talk of the Town is printing the side of Reyes in the interests of fair play. This section sent the first draft of his article to Sison as the CPP founding chair could respond to it. Upon the request of Reyes, this section then forwarded Sison's piece to him so he could revise his first article.

It is hoped that the truth will come out as a result of the exchange of charges and counter-charges.

Sison wants bloody revenge, not truth

By Ricardo Reyes

THE Jose Maria Sison threat "blazing." This was how we called this thrice, with footnotes. That native Despot so fond in shooting to see where you marvel calling the senate-servant diplomatic mystery agents and a "blazing" threat those who opposed your "endless" line.

Now you want me killed. Your article two Sundays ago in that Talk of the Town section confirmed that you and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), where you are paramount leader and CPP chair, have long sent a party-list assassin to finish me off.

I write this letter to plain file, the the executive knew an comrade and followers, the file you were mass misinformed.

Nothing to excuse but on a leader of any organization the Akbayan, which, as you yourself have said, has nothing to do with the movements was leveled against me. So that we do not slip up our assets, I have gone on leave from Akbayan. I want more time and space to finally pursue the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in all its.

Nothing new

There is nothing new about your charges. You've been repeating them since the 1980 split even as I have on various occasions refuted them. I have engaged in wars refreshing my desire to clarify, to be self-critical and to do whatever was needed to correct my errors. Your obsession to demonize me is clearly not about truth but only straddles up to years and demonizes personalities. Later, you have them killed.

Why pick on me for the anti-DPA (deep penetration agent) campaign in Mindanao known as Kampanyang Ahos? It is known primarily with that Kampanyang Ahos and other anti-DPA campaigns were subsequently the spontaneous, collective and instinctive response by the CPP leadership, national and regional, since 1981 until it ceased to exist in 1988.

You know that Kampanyang Ahos was the first anti-DPA campaign. Before it, there was Cadena de Amor in Southern Tagalog in 1981. It was initiated and directed necessary but with excesses by the Central Committee in 1985. Kampanyang Ahos was in 1985-early 1986. That, Operation Missing Link (OPMIL) and the infamous "Save the Center" plot in Southern Tagalog in 1988. That same year, the communist-organized counter-mission, Central Luzon and Cordillera. The year before, Laguna Valley was in the middle of a similar campaign. Even small- and close-knit organizations are the importance of no organizational policy and practice.

Politburo decision

As to Kampanyang Ahos, I will only comment briefly. I will first allow the CPP Politburo to speak about it. In a document titled "Resolutions of the Political Bureau (PB) of the Central Committee (CC), Peninsula 1986."

The salient points of the document are as follows: 1) "In general, the centralized anti-DPA campaign in Mindanao is correct and successful." 2) "The PB of the CC criticized the Mindanao Commission [Mindanao sector] and the regional committees involved for their weaknesses and shortcomings, for not adopting appropriate measures in time to prevent the Party organization so as to avoid panic, limited suspicion on a wide scale, and excesses." 3) "The Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the CC [EC-CC] have a share in the accountability for the excesses of the campaign.

3-a) The Mindanao chief and another member were tied up by almost a year searching the CC planning the key cadres who knew the situation and the chaos between were absent from the field when the campaign started. 3-b) The special group headed by the EC-CC to provide crisis management to the campaign bodies of some ad hoc guidelines has failed to call solution in a report the investigations, conclusions and policies."

4) "The Mindanao chief did not bring the situation to the CC-CC immediately or on the initiative."

Central player

In Kampanyang Ahos, the second touching with a central player Benito Tiamzon, your CPP vice chair using headed the EC-CC special group on the campaign. And who composed the EC-CC then, which also affirmed Cadena de Amor before? Did they not include with from Benito, Zuhair Barjosia and Antonio Tiamzon who are now on your side, and Rodolfo Salas who was dead and an attacked on the?

Who composed the Plod 1988 which upheld the correctness and necessity of Kampanyang Ahos?

Did they not include Benito Tiamzon, Wilma Austria Tiamzon (your CPP secretary general), Leo Nilsen, Rafael Baylosis, Antonio Tiamzon and Jose Lacaba who are all now in your "loyalties" CPP?

Do you remember that this PB decision paved the way for OPMIL and other anti-DPA campaigns, which raged in 1987-1989. Stories and Wilma quoted the Metro Manila campaign and mentioned the anti-DPA campaign in Cagayan Valley headed OPML. Wilma's wife is the helm of the Southern Luzon commission when anti-DPA campaigns in Cagayan Valley took place.

And then there is the "provocateur" Or are they not "provocateur" because they aided with you in your "rectification with purge" campaign and now back the wave of the headlines CPP leadership?

Cleared

Yet, here then I had nothing to do with 1987-1988 decisions because I was being investigated for possibly being a DPA myself and that I was under surveillance and was cleared. You know all this because you were briefed by an EC-CC emissary in Davao, The Netherlands through whom you gave your blessings to my CPP membership. You even asked for an investigation of how CPP leaders suspected of having links were the military, on head of NPA work, and heads of the mass organizations, finance and main underground.

Many and praises notwithstanding individuals must still accuse. You know that I was not in Mindanao at that time as mentioned by the PB 1988 decision. But you also know that I have always been ready to face more accusations than that. I have repeatedly said to let the sun 12 years.

Yes, you keep on smearing tales against me, which only become more hideous as years go by. You accuse me of spreading fallen rumors as if I could command the EC-CC and have a share in the accountability

Let's face each other before an impartial body, not your "people's court," which is a kangaroo court and one whose judges are guilty of the crimes they are supposed to evaluate

as do my bidding, when I was not even a member of these organs then. Was Dave Barros really a spectator and accomplice of parties, being, and dead in parallel with Olivia?

Shoddy accounting

And this "espionage" and "Cadre" thing. This is right page. Only The PB never cleared me of this, in 1987 and 1988, and even ordered Salas for summoning serious security lapses and for leading false exclusions against leading cadres and for his failed 1988 mop exercise-lawyer policy.

Jose Maria Sison, let us have real, honest and mind-searching accounting of all this. Let us have each other before an impartial body, not your "people's court," which is a kangaroo court and one whose judges are guilty of the crimes they are supposed to evaluate.

Let the process be fair and thorough. You we were in the regions and their families, to expose who joined the movement just to the younger generation of activists who deserve to be freed from the moral burden of this injustice.

Original in Filipino, translations mine. Resources to be posted on Inq7.net. CPP disclaimed during the period are those upon and self-styled, unlike those in 1981 research, which were marked out Sison's "rectification."

(Reyes is a former CPP leader.)

Reyes is culpable for Kampanyang Ahos

By Prof. Jose Maria Sison

THE negotiating panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has received information from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the people's prosecution office that Ricardo Reyes is facing criminal charges related to Kampanyang Ahos and other crimes and that there is prima facie evidence against him to support the solicitor issued by the people's court for his arrest.

The case against him is overwhelming. It is based on the testimonies of many witnesses and on documentary evidence. Reyes is culpable for the crimes committed in the course of Kampanyang Ahos and other campaigns against suspected deep penetration agents (DPA) in Mindanao in the mid-1980s.

He is required to surrender himself for investigation to the authorities of the people's revolutionary government

Reyes is also culpable for the crimes committed by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) in Mindanao from 1986 to 1991.

It is the years leading to the start of the Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM) in 1992. Reyes currently serves as a CPP guidance member under the direction of a party unit for the Bicolanos of Bayugan, Intelligence of the III Front Department.

During the SGRM, Reyes publicly attacked the CPP and exposed its "nationalist" front "Bayan Muna Partido ng Alternatibong Pangkaunlaran (Bayan)" "bourgeois-reformist organization" (BMOB and another NGO funded by the US Agency for International Development.

Surrender

According to the CPP, it is looking further into other apparently could be a contributing criminal record of Reyes and into his criminal activities indicated by the following circumstances.

1. Akbayan has collaborated with the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police not only in its purpose operations and in the commission of serious fraud and corruption against the six progressive parties in the party-list but also in deploying Akbayan officers and members in Mindanao to monitor party activities and to spy on revolutionary forces and people in Bicolandia, the Southern Tagalog, Western provinces, Agusan, Eastern provinces and Sulu-Basilan.

2. Akbayan has organized local armed groups using the Philippine military intelligence network (MIN) and paramilitary units of the armed forces of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). Reyes is known to have been seen in Binanonal Region, who is being micromanaged in the posts by Ben Rosales as an investment-partner-farmer, "bounded" by the 84th Intel" holding" in Manila for the purpose of monitoring the activities of leading leaders of the BIA in the Bicol Peninsula. Twenty-nine prominent of Sen. Sison, Quezon documented him on a military operation March 1, 2006, responsible for abducting and destroying the local pension association.

According to the CPP, there is prima facie evidence that Reyes is engaged in very serious criminal acts against revolutionary forces but he must face first the charges against him for Kampanyang Ahos. He is required to surrender himself for investigation to the authorities of the people's revolutionary government.

It is advisable for him not to resist the summons of arrest issued by the people's court. Thus, he can avoid the risk of being regarded as an armed and dangerous criminal suspect, who is open to harm. In any legal system, the accusing party is not allowed to act as both defender against an armed suspect and his armed bodyguards, especially under the current conditions of civil war.

Ruthless

I am deeply concerned in the truth about Kampanyang Ahos. First, because of the fatalities of victims and the people cry out for justice against this barbaric crime inflicted by the Communist Party and people. Second, because I wish to stop the senseless suicide attempts of the perpetrators of the crimes to put the blame on me.

Since 1986, the CIA, Philippine and Dutch intelligence services have violently blamed Kampanyang Ahos on me to oppose my application for political asylum despite the fact that I was under surveillance and closely detained from 1977 to March 1986. They have mobilized the chief perpetrators of the crimes and are using them for propaganda against the revolutionary forces.

Reyes should not obfuscate his criminal culpability or claim immunity by blaming it on him for Kampanyang Ahos or by citing other alleged crimes and claiming that I have been set free on property dealt with. Under the legal and judicial system of the people's revolutionary government, the merits and demerits of the case will be given weight for such and according to the facts and the law.

Utterly wrong

As regards the question of his and public ideas Kampanyang Ahos and strategic phenomena, the SDRM has identified six major errors and shortcomings, and criticized, repudiated and rectified them. By implication, the SDRM, the CPP has made clear that previous decisions by any organ that Kampanyang Ahos was a "complete revolutionary success" or "revolutionary success, with reservations" is utterly wrong.

The wrongdoers are accountable for their own political subjects crimes the other imperialist and crimes they have committed. Many Crimes are indistinguishable from political errors and are submitted to technical and judicial organs of the people's revolutionary government for crimes against and punishment.

I wish there were more space to discuss Kampanyang Ahos and other issues, including those raised by Isidoro Rodis, Ben Rosales, Ronald Llamas, this observation and the rest of the focus on Global Heads. But it is good to have more focus on Kampanyang Ahos here. The readers can get further information about Ahos from www.philippinerevolution.org.

(Sison is the NDFP chief political consultant. He is based in The Netherlands.)

Across the NATION
Your on-your-feet guide to regional news and developments
Editor: Tony Bergonia

Power flickers in worries, hopes

THE GROWING need for electricity in Mindanao and the Visayas has flicked the switch on to worries over whether there would be enough supply of power and also to the search for alternatives to ease the dependence on trouble-laced sources of energy.

In some areas in Mindanao, businessmen are already pushing panic buttons as most fear that by the time more factories, offices and homes start to need more electricity, there would be none.

In another area on the island, however, hope is drawn on the horizon by private sector efforts to tap alternative sources of energy that are nonbankrupting.

Pending is a National Transmission Corp. proposition that Mindanao would get most of its power starting this year businessmen who attended the 6th Davao Business Conference and the 2nd Davao del Sur Business Conference were messages of concern to the government.

In a resolution, the businessmen identified problems in transmission as their immediate source of worry.

Ronnie Sweet, vice chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said while a coal-fired power plant and the Pulangi 4, another power plant, were to be completed in 2006, there "cannot be enjoyment by southern Mindanao."

A transmission line that would bring the electricity that these plants would generate to consumers in the region, he said, "will not be completed until the latter part of 2007."

He said the MEC plans to connect power grids from Leyte, which source of geothermal power, to Mindanao at a cost of $108 million, which is cheaper because "building two to three base load plants will be more expensive than building one submarine cable."

Partnerships

One solution that the businessmen see is for the government to enter into partnerships with the private sector in building the required infrastructure to ensure continued power supply to Mindanao.

But just as businessmen and energy officials gave their power blueprints and plans that involve hundreds of millions of pesos, volunteers and residents in a small village called Magsaysay in Matling, Davao City is showing how action to address the power crisis could mean collective benefits.

Magsaysay village was a scourge to electricity bill collectors, according to one village official, until the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (amore), a program funded by the US-Asia for International Development, came.

The Energy Renewable Energy Development Corp., which carries out Amore projects in Davao, introduced the village to solar power.

"Lighting up these areas (homes) known as grid-controlled is one way of ensuring power," says Celso Castillo, a community supervisor of Pamrog.

Early last year, engineers arrived to put up solar panels in Magsaysay.

Since the road to the village was bad, they had to carry solar modules from the highway on foot for less than the panelboxes that their vehicles would take on the village road would punish their precious cargo to well.

Castillo, the community organizer in the area, says she usually rescue herself for each trip to Magsaysay because the motorcycle ride alone makes her body ache.

No power

The Department of Energy had identified Magsaysay as among the remaining villages in the country that has not yet been reached by electricity.

But the power company closed set foot on the village of 564 households since it was not profitable.

The Magsaysay solar energy project is just one of the Amore projects in Mindanao, which seek to about one hectare with one megawatt-peak of solar power — rural power refers to lay down their finances for phase.

The US$28 has poured in $7.39 million for projects to light up the most depressed areas of Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Sulu, Maguindanao, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao.

As of May this year, the project has lighted up close to 4,000 households. 131 community centers, 262 streets and 132 barangays all over Mindanao, according to report by Amore.

Each solar system package is capable of lighting up 300 households, according to Castillo.

Beneficiaries have to organize themselves into a group to manage the project. The package features solar modules that convert sunlight to direct current (DC) electricity, which is stored in a battery for use at night. Inverters change DC to alternating current (AC) electricity.

People have to charge their cube batteries at solar-charging stations.

Cristalan Peñalosa, a village councilor of Magsaysay says his 12-volt battery lasts up to 10 days.

"We usually have the lights on from six to nine at night," he says. "My children can now study their lessons at night. We don't have other appliances."

Biggest contributor

Cities of the biggest contributors in the project to electrify 1,000 villages nationwide is Mlinet, which has generate $28 million for the project.

In Tawi-Tawi, Amore put up a solar laundry-

The Preventable Crisis

ers for dreams, hunt, high-quality drying of fish.

It is about to finish a solar-powered seaweed processing project there, while packaging other livelihood projects in other parts of Mindanao.

In Mindanao, MGOC Dr. Delia Pelayo and Barangay Bamdadayo in Ili Peninsula in Maguindanao, people have installed a solar-powered public-address system.

"There is hope, after all," says Gerry Gadiad, in the small village of Lower Calmadutong, in the same Ili Peninsula in Maguindanao.

Before sunset's solar panels, Gadiad's family and the peoples, investors large kinds of glass bottles or in the case, which emit fumes dangerous to health. Now, they have fluorescent lights.

The search for electricity is not an immediate concern, however, for Davao Visayas.

Dwight Ramos, resident manager of the Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), said the region hosts the world's second biggest geothermal reserve (but mind) "but a little."

The region's seven sources of this generous supply of energy to other provinces.

Adding more provinces to the list of those being supplied by the Tongonan Geothermal Field, however, would cost hundreds of millions of pesos, says Ramos.

The Tongonan Geothermal Field provides electricity to the Luzon and Visayas grids through submarine cables.

"The PNOC was created to search for other source power sources. And, in one case, geothermal," Mantos told the inquirer.

Geothermal dependent

The first drilling exploration in the area was done sometime in 1976, or three years of an electricity from a geothermal source was first activated in the country. The drilling goes to the "first and Malaling Binaludan fields that new installment more than 600 megawatts to be latest goal.

Mantos said about 15 percent of the country's electric consumption is supplied by geothermal, of which 66 percent is controlled by the PNOC-EDC.

He said the Leyte Geothermal Field has an estimated capacity of 700 MW.

"On the mainregion, it is more than enough. In fact, it is in Samar that also include Southern Leyte and Biliran provinces, the peak demand is only 195 MW," Mantos said.

In Cebu and Panay, the state-owned power entity delivers 114 MW, while between 300 to 400 MW go to Luzon, said Mantos.

The energy business has been profitable for the PNOC-EDC, one of the very few government-owned and -controlled corporations that registered profits.

Based on its records, the PNOC-EDC grossed P4.5 billion from their asset sales to the Luzon and Visayas grids. In 2003, the company earned P1.2 billion in a net profit.

The Tongonan geothermal field is the source of revenue for Davao City and its nearby town Samoga (the geothermal field straddle both areas) and the Leyte provincial government.

Rewards from the company said last year alone, the PNOC-EDC paid these two local units in royalties in those local government units.

The money allows the PNOC-EDC to help.

"For example, we organized groups in the different barangays where the people themselves identify the projects that they could use to earn additional income," said Mantos.

"Our assistance does not end there. If they need technical help or market for their products, we help them," he said.

Scholarships

Mantos added they also give scholarships to poor but deserving high school students. Currently, about 180 high school students are PNOC-EDC scholars.

The PNOC-EDC also looks after the health conditions of the people, through the health facilities that they have established in all areas of 11 barangays located in the area.

Reforestation also helps protect the geothermal reserve by ensuring that the forest cover in the geothermal complex would remain lush.

Mantos said the PNOC-EDC has conducted reforestation projects covering the entire 167,000-hectare area. It has its own reserve, more distinct that looks after the protection of the forest area of the complex.

With sound management and cooperation extended by the people residing within the complex, the project says the PNOC-EDC that the Tongonan geothermal field may indeed last "even a lifetime" could power use.

The concern for energy dates back to 1971 when, responding to an international oil crisis, the government through the then Bureau of Power Corp., made a study entitled "Preliminary Geothermal Studies of the Southern and Fields of Negros Island."

In 1974, the Commission on Volcanology (Comvol) together with New Zealand geologists and engineers conducted geological surveys of the Bacon area of the Ormoc Valley Valencia, a town some 11 km west of Cebu, Tongonan, and Tiglad, Mayo area Basin.

In 1975, Magmot leads over the work of the Comvol and conducted the detailed geothermal, geological and resistivity surveys in the same areas, still with the help of New Zealand geologists and engineers.

In the same year, Presidential Decree 1442 was issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos declaring some 330,000 ha of land in Southern Negros, straddling the mountains of the city of Tanjay and the towns of Bayawan, Mabini, San Jose, Mabini, Valencia, Sibulan, Tanjay, Zamboanguita and Siaton, as a geothermal reservation.

The PNOC-EDC took over the project from Napocor in 1976.

In 1983, the three geothermal plants in Tongonan, Palinpinon I and Leyte-Cebu submarine cable (Palinpinon I 890, 11 were commissioned. PAL 1 generates 112.5 MW.

In 1984, PAL 1 began supplying electricity to Bacolod, via the Mahanay-Bacolod transmission line. In 1995, it also started to supply power to Negros Island.

Two years after, four additional geothermal plants in Tongonan Malitgan and Leyte-Cebu (linked to PAL 1 were commissioned, generating 60 MW. With PAL 3, geothermal power from Leyte-Negros was brought to Cebu, through the Negros-Cebu submarine cable.

Hope in plants

But the search for alternative sources of energy continues.

In Sorsogon City, experts are studying two native plants as alternative sources of fuel, which could help lessen the country's oil and pollution problems.

The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Philippine Coconut Authority are encouraging farmers to propagate the three indigenous plants (also known as Jatropha) before in Tagalog) and Tuba (pronounced: too, locally known as tuba-tuba) so they can be sources of bio-diesel. *Reports from Bernardino Lacuesta, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Romy Imamudin and Joey Salviejo, PDI Visayas Bureau and Ester Ernesto Gomez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Innovate. Educate. GCIC.
At Global City Innovative College, Innovation is our Foundation...
BS Nursing
Caregiver Program For Japan and Canada
BSBA - Major in Management
NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLEES/TRANSFEREES FOR SY 2005-06 ENTRANCE EXAMS ON FEBRUARY 14, 2005
Global City Innovative College
GLOBAL CITY INNOVATIVE COLLEGE/DOMINGO SUBIC, CITY

We take learning seriously.
Do you?
School of Design and Arts
• Arts Management • Interior Design
• Dance • Multimedia Arts
• Fashion Design and Merchandising • Music Production
• Industrial Design • Production Design
• Technical Theater
School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management
• Hotel, Restaurant, and Institution Management
Tracks on: Culinary Arts, Travel and Tourism Management, and Hospitality Management
School of Management and Information Technology
• Computer Applications • Business Management
• Export Management • Marketing Management
• Human Resource Management
School of Multidisciplinary Studies
• Consular and Diplomatic Affairs
At De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, learning is not just skills and knowledge transfer. It is a process of formation that guides each learner through intellectual, social and spiritual maturity. DLS-CSB is a learner-centered institution anchored in enhancing each individual's proficiencies and encouraging steadfast growth in faith.
Application period for Transferees for First Trimester, SY 2005-2006 is on
February 4, 2005-March 14, 2005.
Testing dates:
March 5 and March 19, 2005
Release of results:
April 16, 2005
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
2544 Taft Avenue, Manila, Philippines 1004 www.dls-csb.edu.ph
For more information, please call Admissions 5260401 to 07 locals 126, 210, 221

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer stn name/ city/ message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Bulacan traders bare ₱10M extortion by dads

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOCAUE, Bulacan—A group of businessmen accused the vice mayor and members of the local council of demanding P10 million from them in exchange for the issuance of permits and other documents that the firm would need in establishing an industrial park here.

Officials of the Bocaue Golden City Business Park, a joint venture of the World Wood Trading Corp. and Centerpoint Real Estate Construction Corp., said Vice Mayor Kennedy Valdez and members of the town council have been harassing them after they failed to complete the amount that the officials allegedly asked as "SOP" (for standard operating procedure, a euphemism for grease money).

Amir Pascual, a representative of majority investor World Wood, told the INQUIRER on Saturday that they gave the local officials P300,000 in exchange for the council's endorsement of the project and the release of permits and documents they needed.

Pascual said the money was received by a councilor on Dec. 13 last year after a council session.

The 10-hectare Golden City Business Park, which covers the villages of Wakas, Caingin and Taal, was planned to be the second industrial city in this town that would host the operations of more than 40 rice millers.

Valdez, however, denied Pascual's claim that he and members of the Bocaue council asked P10 million from the investors.

"I'm still trying to identify the people behind these accusations that ruined my good name and reputation. There is no truth to these charges. I'm planning to bring these people to court for maligning me," Valdez said in Filipino.

Valdez, who served as councilor from 1998 to 2004, is serving his first term as vice mayor.

The business park's construction started in 1997 but the council passed a resolution in 1998 preventing the investors from proceeding with the project due to supposed violations.

Pascual, however, said they stopped the project after the investors suffered financial difficulties and was pressured by local officials then.

In November last year, a new set of investors revived the project and sought the approval of the new set of council members. But the council passed a resolution reiterating its position in 1998 and which prevented it from pursuing the project.

The council, in its November resolution, said the investors should not be given a development permit because of a pending petition by a group of residents against the project and the supposed lack of public hearing.

Residents belonging to the Ureta Neighborhood Association filed the petition, citing the possible health hazard from the mills' wastes (or husks).

But Pascual said the project area is an "open site" and is far from residential areas.

Valdez told the INQUIRER that the investors had failed to present to the council a locational clearance from the municipal planning and development council and various clearances from other government agencies for the project.

He said the development permit that the investors presented has yet to be checked and authenticated by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Pending the document's authentication, Valdez said the council must temporarily stop the investors from proceeding with the project.

The council resolution said the investors also lacked a land conversion permit from the Department of Agrarian Reform and construction work for the project caused flooding in several villages during the rainy season.

It said portions of the project area remain classified as residential and agricultural areas, and not industrial or commercial sites.

Mayor Serafin dela Cruz said Valdez and the councilors should prove that they did not receive any money or exerted any pressure on the investors.

New team formed to track drug fiends

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A task force composed of members of intelligence personnel from different law enforcement agencies have been formed to track down drug personalities and law enforcers involved in the illegal drug trade.

A brainchild of Negros Oriental Gov. George P. Arnaiz, the task force was created last week to enhance and strengthen provincial government's anti-drug campaign.

"There is really a need for all the law enforcement agencies to be helping each other in order to gain headway in the campaign against illegal drugs," the governor said.

He said that in the past, law enforcers from the different agencies tend to keep their respective intelligence reports for their own consumption because there was no proper coordination.

The governor said sharing of information would be a major factor in building up cases against those involved in the drug trade.

Provincial Prosecutor Diosdado Hermosa has earlier lamented that many drug cases were dismissed because of lack of evidence.

To be headed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) provincial director, the task force will be composed of two representatives each from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Dumaguete PNP police provincial office, Maritime Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

ROUNDUP

Flycatchers in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The *panat*, Ibanag term for flycatchers, are back in Cagayan, as they are yearly when the weather is cold. Farmers love the *panat*'s piercing chirps and their feasting on insects, especially grasshoppers. A small beauty, flycatchers are difficult to catch as they peck back with their sharp bills and claws. They usually disappear once the summer heat starts.

Estanislao Calde, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspected vigilantes fall

CABANATUAN CITY—Police on Wednesday arrested seven suspected members of the Red Vigilante Group (RVG), two of them in the list of top 10 wanted persons in Central Luzon. Among those arrested in separate places in Nueva Ecija, according to Supt. Roel Obusan, chief of the provincial intelligence and investigation bureau of the Nueva Ecija police, were Joey Cella and Crisanto de la Cruz, No. 4 and No. 5, respectively, in the wanted list. They are facing charges of robbery and kidnap for ransom. Others arrested were Henry Vero, Wilson Cruz, Jovan Castillo, Crisanto Mateo, and Rolando Cruz.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wetland Day in Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—The World Wetland Day will be celebrated for the first time on Feb. 2 at the Naujan Lake National Park. The official markers will be presented to declare Naujan as a "wetland of international importance" under Ramsar Convention, an international agreement that promotes conservation and sustainable use of wetland areas. There will also be viewing of migratory birds.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Hot' lumber seized in 2004

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 3467.6 cubic meters of illegally cut and transported forest products amounting to P4.2 million were confiscated in Bicol last year, according to a report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office here. Alfredo S. Araya, DENR regional public affairs office chief, said Camarines Norte topped the list with the most confiscated illegal lumber with 965.57 cubic meters, followed by Camarines Sur with 960.92 cubic meters. Masbate had the least seizure with 22.14 cubic meters. Araya noted that not all the confiscated lumber products were taken from Bicol. Some came from the Visayas and were intercepted at the Matnog port in Sorsogon. The amount of seized lumber slightly dropped from 355 cubic meters in 2003 to 346.76 cubic meters last year.

Leo Martin B. Garaza, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Nabbed for poking gun

ROXAS CITY—The police on Tuesday arrested a 14-year-old boy who allegedly poked a .38 caliber revolver at his classmate. Supt. Rene Aspera, Roxas police director, said no case would be filed against the suspect until he reaches the age of majority. The minor was turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The police recovered the gun from the suspect, which was loaded with five bullets.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

San Fernando customs employees protesting return of collector

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Employees of the Bureau of Customs' district here have opposed the reinstatement of the district collector who was suspended for six months for 'poor by the Ombudsman.

In two manifestos, copies of which were given to President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials, the employees said Atilonia Iglesias, San Fernando district collector, "does not possess the integrity and good moral character of a public official," citing several acts she committed but "do-hoodlum officer."

The employees cited several administrative and criminal cases filed against Iglesias in various courts here and in the cities of Baguio, Manaoag and Manila.

Two of such cases were for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act filed, respectively, by the La Union Electric Co. and the National Bureau of Investigation based in Baguio.

'Self-serving'

Another case is pending before the state anti-corruption for the loss of 5.02 cans of imported cigarettes that were later discovered in the garage of her rented cottage here, the employees said as one of the main factors.

But Iglesias laughed off the manifestos' contents and called them as "self-serving."

She said there were included by Rogelio Rabaud, acting subcollector of the Subic Bay International Airport, when she said, had a grudge against her.

Iglesias said she had filed charges against Rabaud before the Civil Service Commission for keeping his daily time records.

Rabaud, in a telephone interview, told the Inquirer that while almost 40 of the more than 70 customs district employees signed the manifestos, only three customs personnel were named by supporting Iglesias.

He said most employees wanted Iglesias out of the bureau quick. The customs district covers ports in Lemag and Guest, cities (Baguio, Batac), Ilocos (Pangasinan) and Aparri (Cagayan).

Iglesias' charges that I filed forged BIR's were just figments of her imagination. The CSC had cleared her," Rabaud said.

Iglesias, who is also facing a graft case filed by the Department of Finance's revenue integrity protection service, maintained her post as acting customs collector only this month.

Status quo

However, a subsequent memorandum issued by outgoing Customs Commissioner George Ibrahim advised her to "maintain the status quo" and assume her functions as deputy collector for regular Appointment.

But Iglesias disregarded the memo, went to the regional trial court here and successfully obtained a 20-day temporary restraining order.

When the TRO expired, she again went to court and on Jan. 23, RTC Judge Adolfo Alegre issued a 10-day writ of preliminary injunction making BOC officials to stop from further issuing conflicting orders to "avoid confusion in Customs of Customs District 1."

Alegre also asked lawyer Jean Tan, who replaced Iglesias when she was suspended, not to exercise the functions of district collector until the case is concluded.

Jose Lo. Juliano, PIO Northern (with Reuters)

RESCUE OPERATION
An employee of the Infanta municipal government tries to save documents during a fire that hit north Quezon in December last year.

Judge says convict in Javier slay case plotting to kill him

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Philippine Herald

SUBIC CITY—The judge who presided over the trial of the murder case of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier says he has file after one of those he convicted managed to slip out of jail allegedly with a plot to have him killed.

Judge Rudy Canoy-ao, presiding judge of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12, said the police has provided him with "elaborate" security measures after receiving reports that Efraim Monreal and several unidentified persons were seen in Caticlan' downtown in Boracay Island.

Police were seen on the airport pier and Monreal's escape from the antique administration center where the convicts are detained.

Chief Supt. George Algilo, Western Visayas police director, ordered an extensive search conducted by the Boracay through his mobile phone. "I haven't heard of that report," antique police director Supt. Rolando Quinto said in a separate telephone interview.

But Canoy-ao said it was the police who informed him of the alleged plot. He said several of his court aides who know Monreal said they saw the convict on Dec. 23.

On Dec. 12 last year, Canoy-ao convicted Monreal along with seven others for Javier's bombing and the wounding of several others. Also convicted were former Antique Governor Felipe Gonzalez, Ramon Wesselhoeft, Benny Ambrosio and Rolando Bersamindez.

Canoy-ao acquitted former intendelyosian Arlene Bacalso, the alleged mastermind, and three others accused.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Zal-divar-Perez confirmed that Ubeime managed to slip out of jail without authorization. But she said the prisoner is "already back."

Canoy-ao said the convicted prisoner have been under the jurisdiction of Bureau after he issued an order committing the prisoners to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa shortly after he promulgated the resolution on the case.

He said he has already sent the records of the case to the Court of Appeals after Bersamindez and others convicted appealed the ruling.

When asked by the Inquirer why the convicted have not been sent to the national penitentiary nearly four months after Canoy-ao issued the order, Perez said the provincial government "has no money" to pay for their transfer which would cost around P150,000.

Perez said she has ordered provincial administrator Mildred Solante to look for funds, and is not close convinced in the absence number next week.

Army chief denies CIA working with RP troops

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City— Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Army chief, said foreign support to the country's anti-terrorism activities has been limited to training programs, including weapons that the United States has stepped up intelligence network inside Philippine territory.

But Senga said he had no information regarding the number of foreign intelligence operatives that are being sent to the country under an intelligence sharing arrangement that was crafted in 2004. In his interview at the time of the US-led "coalition of the willing."

He said an operatives of the General Intelligence Agency, the American intelligence group established to operate outside US shores, have helped up with the trained forces of the Philippines.

He said the military only conducts with foreign countries through intelligence-sharing programs that are designed to flush out terrorist cells.

Senga was honored here by the Philippine Military Academy on Saturday.

The PMA also received Maj. Gen. Ariel Bloemberg, director of the Philippine planning unit police of the US Pacific Command. Bloemberg was here as part of his tour of military camps in the country.

"The threat of terrorism, which is a global [evil] must be addressed by everybody [for] during whatever information can be shared so that the targets can be identified," Senga said.

"In the case of the US Armed Forces, we have been done to be there to help our intelligence unit so that capabilities can be improved, but I don't know anything about [CIA operations]," he told the Inquirer.

"The fourth [attack] on October, as foreign forces are conducting operations in this country and I believe the government is adhering to the Constitution," he said.

Vincent Cabreza, PDN Northern Luzon Bureau

Army chief orders rotation of officers in Abra

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City— The head of the Philippine Army ordered his officials to stop rotating all of the army units stationed in Abra, saying the military's unwilling to take responsibility" for a supposed assassination plot planned by an Army officer against a mayor in that province.

Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Army chief, said Lt. Col. Noel Hidalgo, commander of the 41st Infantry Battalion in Abra, has been relieved and placed under the custody of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., 5th Infantry Division commander, for the offense that's supposed role in ordering the murder of Lagayan Mayor Cecilio Luna.

Senga said by replacing military personnel in Abra, they want to remove any impression that the soldiers and officials would be part of armed groups hired by Abra politicians to kill their rivals.

The government has tasked both the police and the military with discovering armed groups that are reportedly maintained by some Abra politicians.

Senga said the armed forces of the Philippines' Office of the Army Inspector General has ordered the early investigation of Mayor Luna's role in the case.

"We are concerned about the case. We are taking responsibility if there will be any [Army personnel who will be convicted]. We will [like to] see, if somebody has to be punished," Senga told reporters here on Saturday.

The investigation involved the Dec. 17, 2004 ambush of Governor Eduardo Bersamin and Antonio Roquero implicating Malong in the plot to kill Luna and his family members.

On Dec. 22 last year, five days after they were killed the officials, Roquero and Bersamin were ambushed in Isabela.

Roquero died in that attack while Bersamin survived but has gone into hiding.

Three additional sachets[illegible] a session being conducted by Coalition police officials on the coverages, that the police implicated to defend their private actions.

Abra Gov. Vicente Valera, [illegible] political opponents, was implicated in the plot. Valera, however, denied the allegations.

"The [Army] investigation is ongoing. The investigation has been hampered because one of the key witnesses [Bersamin] decided to flee [to the Netherlands]. Although he has given a statement earlier. This [affidavit] does not have to be verified in a public [appearance]. At this point, we cannot make any conclusions," Senga said.

"But if the investigation concludes [that these members were involved in the plot], then I will have to close members of the [military]," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDN Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cavite steel plant denies causing pollution

CALAMBA CITY—A steel manufacturing company accused of causing pollution and health hazards by an environmentalist organization and residents of Trece Martires City, Cavite, denied violating environmental laws set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Reacting to a story published in the Inquirer, Bienvenido Dador Jr., vice president of Steel Technologies Inc. (STEI), claimed their company has already complied with government-sanctioned removal of causing steel manufacturing plants such as theirs from residential areas in Barangay Hugo Perez in Trece Martires City.

Luciano Heredia, Environment Management Bureau-Calabarzon director, had earlier issued a closure warning to STEI for its alleged failure to have a wastewater facility at the plant.

The warning came after a multi-sectoral fact-finding team headed the company's operations on Jan. 5. The investigation was prompted by a report of the environmental group Kanlk Earth Savers Movement.

The group said local residents complained of a number of health problems due to STEI's operations because it does not have any wastewater treatment facility.

But in an emailed statement, Dador said that STEI used to maintain a wastewater treatment facility which broke down "because of regular wear and tear."

He said there were measurements that were undergone to repair since November last year. He said they hope to finish the renovation of the facility in two months.

"In the meantime, all wastewater in the plant are being stored in separate tanks and are never discharged. These stored wastewaters will only be discharged after they were properly treated through the approved treatment facility," Dador explained.

He also denied causing pollution at the plant's vicinity. He said the technology employed by their plant is environmentally friendly. "Superslow" blast furnace and "Superfume" aluminum dust control" sheets does not generate toxic or toxic air pollution that could pose danger to the health and safety of the residents in the area.

Dador explained that the fumes are produced using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) which has little carcinogenicity.

"As you may well know, LPG is a clean fuel that does not produce toxic emissions. Electricity, on the other hand, only creates heat that is ventilated through the factory's smoke stack," he said.

He added that the Calamba-Cavite area "does not really keep the environment clean, but rumors solely inside the plant as well."

Dador also maintained that their company had never made any expansion projects that could violate the production capacity condition set in its environment compliance certificate.

"The ECC (steel plant is allowed to produce 200 metric tons of [illegible] per day. Assuming the plant operates 300 days in a year without failure, that would translate to about 72,000 metric tons per year," he said.

Dador said their records showed that other improvements done by STEI in its production process, "the company was only able to produce 18,000 to 18,500 metric tons every year, way below the corresponding capacity stipulated in its ECC.

He then claimed that their company has steadily been "a very responsible and humble company."

"[Our] plant started out as a small facility and grew steadily over the years," he said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Smuggled goods seized in Tawi-Tawi

LAMBANGA CITY—The Philippine Navy confiscated some P5.7 million worth of smuggled smuggled goods in Tawi-Tawi last week.

Commodore Rufino Lopez, Naval forces Western Mindanao commander, said members of Naval Task Force 62 apprehended the contraband on separate boats last Jan. 10 to 11.

He said the suspected goods did not have the corresponding importation papers.

Naval Task Force 62 commander Navy Captain Joel Bahia said the smuggled items included liquefied petroleum gas.

Bahia said the items came from Sabah, Malaysia.

The contraband was immediately turned over to the Bureau of Customs. *Rachel Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Iraq holding elections …

'Our belief stronger than car bombs'

BAGHDAD—The voters, it has been a must for democracy for more than half a century, and they are not passing up the chance to make it work—despite threats that they could die on their way to the polling stations.

"We are going to show the terrorists that these car bombs are not stronger than our belief," said Shiite Abid al-Sahib, urging his followers to go to the polls Sunday no matter the risks.

"The day of our victory will be Sunday," the Shiite candidate for the national assembly told 1,000 people assembled before him as the roar of bomb and mortar blasts rumbled across the capital, bracing for a violent final day before the polls opened.

Al-Sahib is one of those not afraid to vote in the historic election.

Said laborer Dunghaus Mehdi, 48, who claimed he would also vote: "Under Saddam, we had to vote for Saddam. This time we can vote for whoever we want. Why else will it democracy?"

In Ramadi, home to the largest Iraqi community in America, poll workers cheered on a middle-of-nowhere voters out their window by bus.

Pointing to his finger, dyed with indelible blue ink, Democrat resident Rhaden Al-Obeidi said: "That is my finger. I push in Saddam's eye."

Apathy, fear

But many of Al-Sahib's compatriots in his homeland were apathetic, if not afraid.

"The outcome of these elections has already been decided," Salah Eid, a landowner from Mahmoudiya, said. "I believe 99 percent of us here will not vote."

Al-Obeidi, a retired police officer, agreed.

"I will stay home on Sunday," he said. "It's the safest place."

Insurgent attacks

Tens of thousands of security forces were deployed on the streets on foot and in vehicles to stifle insurgent attacks in the final hours before the election.

Cities were like ghost towns as most of the population waited nervously at home to see if it would be safe enough to vote.

In Baghdad and other areas, people flocked to shops and supermarkets to stock up on essential goods in case panic or a curfew ordered that would keep them confined to their homes.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh announced the capture of three senior Zarqawi followers and expressed hopes that the arrest of their leader himself would soon be caught. The three Zarqawi operatives arrested included the commander for Baghdad.

Zarqawi, who has a $25 million bounty on his head, has pledged to kill anyone who votes in a poll he says is designed to bring Iraq's "infidel" Shiite majority to power.

Swarm for boycott

A Zogby international poll released in Washington showed 72 percent of Iraqi Sunnis do not plan to boycott the vote.

The survey of 800 Iraqi adults living in Iraq conducted for Abu Dhabi TV also showed about 88 percent of Shiites were likely to or definitely planned to vote. (Reuter, AFP, New York Times)

VAT faces Senate defeat

From page A1

public manufacturers, wholesaler and retailer would pass off the additional cost to the consumer.

He observed that in such a setup, "the consumer is the tax bearer, not the taxpayer."

"And others they all tried talking to the owners, this will become a political problem. Our President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged," he said.

On Friday, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the opposition in the chamber would likely join the anti-VAT senators to block the proposed 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) increase.

But two congressmen who voted for the bill yesterday signaled for the immediate passage of the Senate version to help the cash-strapped government.

Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Zamora and Bataan Gov. Rep. Herminio Pantaleon, both of the ruling Lakas and both members of the committee on ways and means that spearheaded the passage of the bill in the House, assured reporters that their committee would be addressed at the bicameral committee hearings.

Turnaround

After learning all week that the VAT increase would not trigger a rise in prices of basic food items, Mr. Arroyo's spokesperson is singing a different tune.

"We're not saying that there is no effect [on the prices]. Pilipit we're saying is we will endure the effects, minimize the impact as much as possible," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said over DZMM radio.

"The slight effect of VAT on socially sensitive products shall be tempered by a regular price watch and measures to ensure a stable supply of basic commodities," he said in a statement.

Bunye had said in off-the-record remarks last week that despite bought by the poor, like sardines and noodles, would not be affected because they were "VAT-exempt."

Safety nets

Asked yesterday to comment on the position of business and consumer groups that the VAT increase would bring about a chain reaction of price increases, Bunye said: "Anyway we are working out safety nets that happened. The Department of Finance and the Department of Social Welfare and Development are already thinking of ways to protect our more conscious."

"The bottom line is if there will be no effect on the poorest of the poor. As far as they are concerned, we have safety nets, and we will try to cushion the effects of this VAT increase."

Bunye reiterated that increasing the VAT as a measure of generating additional revenues for the government would redound to the public benefit in terms of the delivery of basic social services such as housing, medical assistance, education, roads and electricity.

"Let us not allow us motivated from that dwell on the positive results of our upcoming fiscal reform, especially the steady upgrade of our credit rating and the challenges of more jobs and livelihood opportunities," he said.

Palace not alarmed

According to Bunye, Malacañang is not alarmed that the senators allied with the administration are opposing the increased VAT, one of eight measures that Mr. Arroyo had proposed in state measures by PhilStar.com news.

"Harmony then opinions is part of our democracy. But we believe that the sum total of this, once deliberations are made, is that the majority of senators will support in fact the package being pushed by President Arroyo," he said in the radio interview.

It was the senators' job to study and review what the House had passed because in the case of tax measures, that chamber had the last crack, he pointed out.

"But we have faith that our senators share the objective of putting our fiscal house in order, and if here is the best way to do this a disagreement on details, not on principle," he said.

In his statement, Bunye said the tax measures that Malacañang had been pushing were "the best and the most equitable" despite the country from severe economic instability, and the people in dire poverty.

"We welcome the interest debates to be done in every level of society, but let this not be seen to come by rabble-rousing and base campaigns," he said.

No rubber stamp

Bunye denied that the House had become a rubber stamp of Malacañang for fast-tracking the approval of Mrs. Arroyo-prioritized tax measures.

"Our legislators are independent," he declared. "The [House] is an independent body with its own direction, but never was glad that [the congressmen] share the program and vision of our President, especially in making solutions to our fiscal problems."

"And we thank them for working overtime," he said, adding that the congressmen worked up to 3 a.m. to pass the important legislative measures.

Congressman Arroyo said the Senate should complement the hard work of the House in passing the VAT bill and his other tax measures, two of which have become law.

He said the House was on track with its fiscal agenda because it had already followed its calendar for committee hearings and plenary debates on key administration reform and revenue proposals.

"We have met the series of constructive among members and congressmen during the bicameral conference on the six tax and tariff measures bills. We are confident that the conference committee will again prevail to the bill for its speedy passage," he said.

No need for increase

Taking a contrary stance, Deputy Majority Leader Dakila Rodriguez said there was no need for an increased VAT.

"I am optimistic that with the decision out of 2005 and the enforcement of revenue measures, the corresponding tax collections revenue and approaches, the 800-billion target can be attained," he said.

Rodriguez also said he was very much concerned about the effect of a possible increased VAT on the lives of ordinary people. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

Not exactly sleeping …

From page A7

yes, ask Jeff hosting party-list congressmen have been ended up being allied with Bayan Muna's Rep. Satur Ocampo in the fight against the 12-percent value-added tax.

"Gaman gayon talaga kaboy nasya ngayon (That's HOT)," madapansin Rep. Rafael Mariano and when asked how he felt, Ocampo could only keep quiet but answered indirectly through a text message.

"Ironic

"The ironic alliance was captured in media footages, including scenes that made it to cyber-space's front page the following day.

But for Ocampo's fellow Bayan Muna representative, Teddy Casiño, the issue—and being photographed—with the daughter of the late strongman only proved that "we work with people based on issues."

"It so happened that time is up as opposed to VAT. It's something beyond our control if people see us together as in the walkout," Casiño said.

MARCOS: That's Me.

"Probably, it is to the credit of Imee's skill as a politician," he added.

Due attention on SAF housework, to do nothing in our look in her father's legacy," Casiño further said.

"That's a basis for further action," Mariano said to Filipino. "What lessons? Today we're ended up VAT for tomorrow, we're at odds over the compensation bill (he married her to this)."

The two political opposition members shared these issues in common, don't usually express this as Quezon City, salaam they also announced to the coming protest rallies against the VAT increase.

Concerning that there was only a slim chance of the tax-VAT bill to the House stopping the measure's transmitted to the Senate to, Senator Casiño said, "I don't think it's important for us to relax to the streets, because the senators will weigh their position based on existing public opinion. We want bodies [they are on] there."

Casiño said the mall only hope that the people" will not remember "and" the senators who have pockets or stealth or clandestine moneys against the Arroyo administration.

BAMBOO FLOORS
(The flooring for Asian Designs)

How does one explain Bamboo Bamboo Floors from Multi-Line?

Is it possible to describe in words the beauty that only the eyes can see and the strength only the hands can feel?

How does one express the effect of ambiance in great designs or even the Asian look or setting?

It is not just about price. Not just about quality. Not just about the products' thickness or widths.

It is about the resilience of the Asian's identity, the Asian spirit, the Asian sensibility.

Come, see and touch our Resilience bamboo floors in our showrooms. Or we will send you our representative with samples.

And be proud to be an Asian.

This art is in the floors.

Enlightened choices through better products. For a better life. Exclusively from Multi-Line.

Multi-Line Simply Creative

BALINESE ROOF SHAKES
(Do you want an Asian design for your house?)

More homebuilders are now turning their eyes on designs that capture the natural beauty of the shores, hills and forests of Southeast Asia.

Some call this design Balinese, others Asian.

Multi-Line now has the roofing material exactly for this design—Metrotiles.

It's not Ilea, for that would look Japanese or Mediterranean.

Metrotiles' simulates rough wood drawn from the forests of Asia and Europe and cut into roof shakes.

It's the next best thing to the natural thatched roof.

Made of polymer clad in New Zealand, Metrotiles is almost eight times more durable than wood, easily painted and requires no maintenance.

It comes in a warranty of 30 years.

That's something you would expect from a product that captures the Asian hot sun, tornadoes and typhoons, rains of salt water and termites.

The art is in the roof.

Enlightened choices through better products. For a better life. Exclusively from Multi-Line.

Multi-Line Simply Creative

Sunday BIZ

E-mail: sy_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Rapino

Tale of three entrepreneurs

She sells shells from the sea shores (and earns dollars)

PUERTO GALERA, Oriental Mindoro—There can be good money after sixty-shore.

Just as "Live" dyeable-haircard Bin, friend this can and yourself it with the jewelry this unusually makes out of washed, metal and dried seashells. Awards on counts that in April 2000, she made something for herself—the first pair of earrings from washed seven seashells—and wore it at a Yacht Club assembly here. Most of the club's members present were foreigners.

"I received positive comments and was motivated to venture into handmade shell jewelry," says Lucinda.

Her passion for the discovered craft and excitement that people would face them glitteringly showed in her eyes.

She says the earrings she wore during that yacht Club meeting were made in just one event and were gold plated. Now the gold is in bad.

Business catch

"Unique classic shell jewelry, beautiful handmade shell jewelry set in 18-carat gold chain and sterling silver. All shells collected in an environment-friendly way from washed-up shells on beaches around the Philippine Islands," is the business catch, which is attached to every pair of earrings for sale, sold, display's self-phrase-maker.

Aside from earrings, Asuncion' other products include shelled faces, bracelets and necklaces with prices ranging from P100 to P1,000.

"Our products do not have the same quality as those in malls where many are sold for fashion and without value of pure gold," Lucinda details.

Showing photos of similar products in a foreigner magazine, she adds that their products are cheaper than 500 pounds for $1,000 dollars with 18-carat gold sold in Europe.

"We can make better and cheaper at $100 dollars," she says with confidence.

Though her business is just medium-sized, her products have been exported to Italy by a marine who comes here every six months, Asuncion says.

ARSHALL—Asuncion's pair of seashells earrings, she related that she first earned $50 for a pair of earrings. Now, she can make a pair of earrings for $100 dollars.

A BIT of Vietnam finds its way into Tarlac

Vietnamese entrepreneur no stranger to risk

By Ronald Arador
PNA General Luna Desk

MALACCA CITY—Entrepreneur Thanh Nguyen, 40, is no stranger to risk.

In 1979, when Nguyen was 15 years old, he joined the exodus to escape communist persecution of South Vietnamese families who fought the Vietcong during the 1954-1975 Vietnam War.

To reach the Philippines from the seaport city of Nha Trang, the capital of Phu Khanh, a southeastern province of Vietnam, Nguyen

Igorot embarks on new soil-less farm technique

By Maurice Malanes
PNA Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Bridel farmer Cesar Abalos has accepted globalization as a given reality to operate all industry.

But to succeed, if not struggled, experts like revamp the local market and threaten to kill the traditional pure food vegetable farming. Abalos has now grown up on farming.

Like other Igorot farmers, who do it decades later from producing 80 percent of the country's cabbage, potatoes, carrots and other temperate vegetables, Abalos is hardworking and dedicated too.

But hard work and industry alone are not enough for us to compete in a globalizing

A TECHNICIAN at Cesar Abalos' Hydroponics Greenhouse in Bridel shows [illegible]

Releasing group energy for decision-making at its best

By Doreen M. Villanueva
Contributor

OSED recently in the media of calls for a Cabinet revamp, formula of the Arroyo administration proposed by the said "creative tension" in Cabinet meetings. The same officials observed that there were "too many yes-men" in these meetings, leading to poorly thought out decisions.

EXECUTIVE READ

Implied in such remarks is the assumption that there are enough brains in key Cabinet, and even ancillary, positions to handle the issues up for decision-making. Only when the problem is finally solved, the assumption goes, can the Cabinet man remain the Cabinet man assigned to the position. Failure leads very inevitably debasing heads that then are confused about policies that kept changing.

Beyond the Palace and into corporate boards

Beyond the Palace and into corporate boards and museums (management committees), meetings, such as group-think driven by a dominant leader, or left along to drift away in a conflict-ridden process. The same ennui finds blushing mark gatherings.

Creative tension

Here's a book that looks closer at this problem, provides its steps to deal with it, and gives interesting accounts of how organizations came up with breakthrough ideas or brilliant courses—simply because creative energy is released by an approach that overcomes the "crippling fears, set rules" and "working procedures and outmoded ways of solving problems."

The book, titled "How Great Decisions Get Made," begins with this statement: "I no longer waste people who look forward to going to work meetings. Or public hearings. Or school board meetings. ... People will sit there everyone feigning sleep or ill health. These jobs will be become progressively bolder? Sounds familiar?

"Why do experts in decision-making process re-kill dozen of them much? the author asks, and supplies the answer: "A primary factor is participation who try to prove their own individual points of view. They look their private title as 'the various drives' dynamics. The 'winners' ghosts the 'losers' who're in effect short-lived. The 'losers' look for ways to prove themselves right and frustrate implementation of the solutions."

Then, this contradiction and facile nature of many Human Relations theories, over the value of listening in meetings. "Listening is the most powerful process we have available. As we listen to each other, we move closer together ... We move off from positions ... We become better thinkers, and also better colleagues."

The book devotes interesting account of the "characters" that attend our meetings...like the "Gladiator," the "boss," the "Devil's Advocate," the "Analyzer," the "Referee," and the "Mediator."

Personality types

Read the descriptive pen graph for each type in the book, and see if you can't spot those personality types in your next meeting.

Due need, though, pertinative every chapter in the book "Hope." The book describes it as the "organizing and coaching spirit," really the heart of the book. Every meeting gives rise to many meetings pro and from negative approaches—like fear, status control, isolationism, spinsanship, etc.

"Connect with your deepest hopes," the author adds, because when every meeting connects with hopes for the organization, he or she becomes personal, and begins about fear and incompetence."

In fact, the book provides many guidelines on how to release the creative energy of those in meetings. The author reveals that any meeting will naturally and dramatically change the mood "when you ask participants to write their most optimistic hopes for themselves and for the company."

With that underlying theme, everything falls into place. So, when the author describes every aspect of the "10-step recipe for reaching agreement" on even the toughest issues," the entire book is distinct by a side but filled "Be an agent of hope." This highlights the dimensions in every chapter.

Author Mariotti may not be your most compelling voice, and I agree, because "brainstorming sessions," SWOT analyses, creative strategy sessions have been with me for decades.

The difference, though is that the book helps down every step, provides illustrations on success cases, and generously credits them that illuminate the entire process.

The 10-step steps for "great decisions making" serve as the "checklist" where the author hangs every point, thought, strategy and success stories.

After reading the book, jacked up "how-to" idea every chapter, you cannot wait to try it out with your team...big or small...and my car this full code process of releasing the creative energy of any group in a great moment of decision-making. (doreenvm@yahoo.com)

Tale of three entrepreneurs

She sells shells from the sea shores

From page B1

The teacher's friends from different nationalities love it too, she adds. Freak season for the business is December until February more, Asmeda.

Partnership

Her partner, Tony Parkinsons, a British national and an electromechanical consultant, complements her work with rowing, climbing and fishing.

"I am the quality control officer, he says with a smile during the showcase of the products at the Golden Phoenix Hotel in commercial area region to south on the environmental project in Cebu. Malawi, but for commercial construction project in Occidental Mindoro. Arrivals used to display her products soon in a branch's area

ABUNDANT provide for sale

hours, across the Manila-Cebu Central Dumaguete School.

Less than a year ago, they built a modern house by the beach with an underground workshop area and personally landscaped garden.

Asmeda studies the shells to find inclusion while Parkinson says decorative items.

But she added small birds, which are beautiful in their place. Since the two now travel less, they get supplied shells.

Four years ago, Asmeda led a bucket of shells in their yards and Parkinsons wanted to throw it away because he thought it was junk and just added weight to the trunk. But I proceeded, saying that 'it for popular on this one day,' says Asmeda.

She assures that skill in matching the shells is needed in making her products.

"It takes a lot of patience because shells come and it's difficult to find similar sizes," Parkinsons adds.

Making a simple pair of earrings can take a minimum of four hours cutting, shaping, gluing, infusing of gold and the final furnishing on.

"I got so engrossed in making earrings that sometimes, I forget seconds and are just cut and touch. Also, since long hours of precise trained work, we get strain-eyed when we are such colors," Asmeda smilingly jokes.

Sr Elenita says to makes books on her shells.

"Shells are precious, especially some shells. Shells premier on one another; they have a symbolic life. All together, shells are fascinating. It's more than just making the product," says Parkinsons. "What matters is this business is that it is a learning process and so you do it very slowly," he advises.

Asmeda showed this entrepreneur that everywhere in their house, even in the toilet, you shells.

Her next project is a shell aquarium. "I like shells, they are beautiful."

Her partner for shells is recognized by her friends that they already give her shell books for gifts instead of dollars. Mindoro: T.V. rule, Fil Southern James Barrons

Igorot embarks on soil-less ...

From page B1

economy," says the 43-year-old farmer. "We also have to learn some technologies that other countries employ to produce quality products, and I'm confident we can succeed."

With such optimism, Alaino, with the help of a technician and commercial workers, enlarged his 2,000-square-meter greenhouse last year to 6,000 square meters. The roof and sides were put on the ground, which he covered with plastic sheets to ensure he would not use the ground as grow vegetables.

Instead of plots, he and his workers arranged hundreds of black plastic bags stuffed with coconut (ground and decomposed coconut husks) and rice hull. Each row of the plastic bags were installed with a drip irrigation system. Water pipes attached to a bigger half-inch diameter pipe connected to an elevated water tank.

The cultivated small water pipe in each row of plastic bags has a tiny hole for each plastic bag. Water drops through the hole when a water valve is opened.

On Jan. 16-17, Alaino and his workers planted the first batch of their hill pepper seedlings, which they said were imported. It more than 3,000 plant bags. A week earlier, they had planted another almost 8,000 seedlings.

It is there he hill pepper plants, farmers said will just have to care the valve.

"So you are in reading you newspaper and sipping your coffee while entering your plants," says Noli Langayan, a consultant who helped set up the greenhouse irrigation and fertility at Alaino greenhouse.

FREE Langayan showing gadget (electric conductivity meter) that measures how fertilizer concentration to determine how much will be fed to plants via irrigation facility

"But what we can now and in produce to fellow Igorot farmers for now is semi-hydroponics," says Langayan.

He cited he use of iron and elements such as zinc, iron or manganese, which are found in fertilizer. Water and soil, he said with a specially designed irrigation facility as was installed in Alaino greenhouse.

The computerize edge of the new technology to that it automatically monitors and will just have to open the valve.

"If you are in reading you newspaper and sipping your coffee while entering your plants," says Noli Langayan, a consultant who helped set up the greenhouse irrigation and fertility at Alaino greenhouse.

Hydroponics

Hydroponics or what Langayan calls "soil less farming technology" has two variants. One is pure hydroponics, which, as they mentioned and Japan, is exclusively water to grow crops.

Under specially-designed greenhouses and with the aid of electronic gadgets that measure the amount of fertilizer that vegetable requires, pure hydroponics is intensive on practically grow crops to a depth or six top of a building using only water.

Through his market research, he found out that food processors and fast food chains are basically import because local farmers either cannot meet the volume quality and reliable or cannot sustain orders.

"Local farmers also are always at the mercy of the changing climate, so during the typhoon season, many farmers cannot enter the stables, food processors and fast food chains had to import.

Taking a calculated risk, Alaino has thus invested almost 4 million pesos, some of which are loans he is still paying and by dispensing irrigation facility.

He estimates that each of his 10,000 hill pepper plants can yield an average of four kilograms in six months to a total of 40,000 in six months or 1,666.67 kg weekly.

The projected volume from his 6,000-square meter greenhouse remains a miniscule of the four tons weekly requirement of the said processor. To meet the client's required volume in the future, Alaino and his consultant are thus looking for other farmers, whom they can organize and continue to operate his irrigation facility.

Through a negotiated fixed price with his client under specific terms of contract, Alaino would have to worry about fluctuating prices, which other Igorot farmers have to endure for what they market their crops at the mercy of middlemen.

Under a P45 to P50/a kg negotiated price with his client, for example, Alaino says he must not be tempted to sell his products to the open market where hill pepper can shoots up to more than P100.

The negotiated price, Alaino says, would enable him to project more extensive earnings for the whole crop-year operation.

"It's time to do away with the parasitic middle [based on local] attitude of many farmers," says Alaino, who gave up a career in the Philippine National Police to pursue farming on the land he inherited from his parents.

As a new idea government is apparently powerless in helping farmers cope with the threats of globalization, Alaino says he hopes his greenhouse can help boost "close window" for other farmers.

Vietnamese entrepreneur ...

From page B1

along with 70 others, crossed the South China sea aboard a small, sputtering motorboat.

After more than a week at sea, Mr. Son's engine conked out, stranding them in the middle of nowhere. Tensions mounted worse, the boat was damaged in the course of their journey and were beginning to sink.

Fortunately, a group of Filipino fishermen spotted and rescued them.

"We were lucky the Filipino fishermen found us. If they did not, we would all have died," Nguyen says.

After their rescue, they were taken to Eastern Island in southern Palawan, some 1,000 km from Nguyen's native city of Nha Trang. From Coron, the refugees were transferred to a camp in Palawan, where Nguyen would stay for seven years before he would be allowed to leave and embark on a fruitful entrepreneurial journey.

Dry goods store

Granted in a two-story apartment rent on Real Street in Tondo City is the Hue Nguyen Merchandise. Named after Nguyen's wife, whom he married in 1983 while they were in the refugee camp, the dry goods store sells used retail and wholesale basis a variety of items from women's clothes and children's wear to household jewelry.

It is living proof that Nguyen has come a long way from an asylum seeker with a gloomy future.

The store is so popular—especially among tourists, and only in a few days after she in Tondo's streets. It has a customer base of about 3,000 and manages to sell P50,000 worth of products daily.

"Now among other that there are no refugees," Nguyen says.

What is the secret of Nguyen's success?

Hard work and a healthy dose of risk-taking, he says.

Everything he needed to start a retail business, from the sewing gear particularly he had learned while fleeing Vietnam.

"Death at sea was better than jail," he says.

Risks

He knows he could capitalize on his being used to taking great risks to succeed in an unwelcome. After all, business around retail is a lot less risks than escaping to ocean in the communist police system in Vietnam.

So after being allowed to leave the refugee camp, he went to Metro Manila and promptly started selling sundry items like perfumes, used clothes and other items. The goods came from Nguyen's aunt and were given on consignment basis.

Nguyen's aunt, who played a significant role in his success as an entrepreneur, had first married a Filipino worker in Taiwan.

When the many customers ended, she went back with him to the Philippines where she prospered in the business of selling imported items from Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

For three months, Nguyen was a full-time worker in Metro Manila. But life was difficult, he says. The police were always after them and the 1 percent of what he then had earned, he decided to look for a better place.

A friend mentioned Tubao and off the Nguyens sought went.

In Tacloc, the Nguyens rented a two-room house in the market. He and Nguyen could start his business immediately even without the benefit of a business permit, he peddled items "guerrilla style." He sets set up shop under the shade of a tree or in front of a store.

But the bulk of his sales during those early times was made by selling door to door and under a staggered payment scheme.

And to him more capital he would use the profit of his two brothers in the United States.

He also asked a refugee friend to lend him money. The friend managed to scrape about P50,000, which Nguyen used to buy items that were not available in his store's shop.

In 1998, the Nguyens moved to the store's present site on Real Street. Most of the couple's customers are Filipino colored residents who speak pure Tagalog "no-nonsense" and "low-price" modes.

Nguyen knew it was businesses business selling to survive. But he thought he was cured by taking risks. Besides, it was sure he could share his generosity to the people who accepted him and the other boat people into their society.

Business flourishes

It was also in 1998, the next story finally had a sense of their own, that business began to pick up. He was able to contact big customs supplying uniforms to public school teachers.

A school teacher, Agnes, is made this possible, he had to make his sales pitch, school by school and reached by teacher.

"There was a time when my collectibles reached P500,000 and I couldn't sleep. But I've since learned to relax and not lose my finger nails over them," he says.

In the beginning he made the rounds of public elementary and high schools in the city-only boat to Manila and Navotas.

Sometimes, he would be barred from entering through the front gate. In such a situation, there would always be a friendly teacher who would guide him through the premises and let him enter the backdoor.

He had no vehicle then and he walked to reach his destinations. On top of that...he always brought his son, then a toddler, along. There was no one to leave him with at home.

The Nguyens lived simply. Every centavo they earned they poured into their business. Though they sell clothes, he wears an old sweatshirt and pants. Each time he went to Metro Manila to buy goods, he would only drink a cup of coffee in the morning, skip lunch and eat only open-returning home at night.

That's why he owns their house with affordability in mind. "Our profit margin is low and our price is the same, such as young [no credit]," Nguyen says.

And he is not afraid to put his money where his mouth is. He said most businessmen are trading would buy just enough goods to cover his orders.

"This is not a sound practice," he says. "I would not insist my customers to buy what they don't have when they want," he says.

Disappointing his clients is one rule he cannot take.

Heady new mix for business travelers on the go

By Sandra Sarcia
Contributor

STEPHANOVS

At a fitting kickoff for another busy travel year, business travel execs should try out Boracay dressing and chocolates.

That's the literally heady news one sees at TotalGuy, that specific Makati hairdressing salon located at posh #780 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

So, Cherry Tomas-Stevens, aka Philippine franchisee of Rosemarie Hairdressing. The First Generation TotalGuy and you-know-and managing director of the salon, hasn't breathed into food. The Hamptons is a famous TotalGuy's western acquaintances into stylist Greg Stepanovs, who comes straight from the slopes of Boracay, so to speak, in the sparkling blue and white-haired aluminum and glass tradition of TotalGuy. And the chocolates are because Chocolate Road hair mask, in its many, pepperoni and Total 90s flight cuisines, is ultra-delicious for chocolate (not getting dry, thinned and destressed, chemically treated hair back into shape.

By "importing" an expert such as Stepanovs, the family's two-year-old salon is proud to proclaim that it is doing its part in improving the hair trade in the country, especially the cell and artistic balances between the Philippines and Russia—via the beauty business.

Stepanovs began his career with a diploma in nature treatments/hairdressing and advanced course diploma in hairdressing and modelling, from the Ministry of Consumer Services, Riga, Latvia. He became a master hair stylist/trainer at the Hairdressing Art Studio, also in Riga, Latvia from December 1992 to December 1994, and by 1998, he was a stylist and colorist at LLC "Estelle," Riga, Latvia.

He next took diplomas in hairdressing at TotalGuy, London, UK in 1998, 2000 and 2004. In 1999, he collected a diploma in hairstyling and modeling from the Russian Hairdressing Academy, Moscow, Russia. In 2000, he was presenter and awarded best in concept at the Robert Heinz Workshop in Moscow.

He took up "The Science of Color and Weave" in 2001 at the Schlandt International Education, Toronto, Canada. In the next three years, from 2001-2004, he concentrated on his advanced diploma in hairdressing at Vidal Sassoon, London, returning for a while to Riga but soon before taking up the invitation to join TotalGuy in Manila.

Stepanovs offers the best of customized hair styling, coloring and dressing. He definitely does not fit into the world of the old-time sonny and dean Brahley, but is more the lively and modern young European color is meeting his Philippine experience with contemporary verve and enthusiasm. And getting the same response from the lucky ladies (and gentlemen) salivating their tresses to his expert touch.

And speaking of lovers, Cherry says her schedule is to stay out the Chocolate Road after-holiday treatment for overworked hair. Called "chocolate mint meltaway," the treatment is a five-minute spa conditioning mask that will give you lush, shiny and healthy hair. The delightful smell of chocolate peppermint provides a cooling effect, as well as improves your scalp. For color-treated hair, this is especially recommended.

Or you can opt for a Twist Me Right hair mask before you get your hair washed. For deeper conditioning, opt for a lathery and oil for five minutes under a low-heat dryer.

And even better yet, enjoy the tantalizing scent of chocolate for that accumulative lesson. Here's that for looking and smelling yummy!

So, why not make it a date for some chocolate — with a Russian? Call Emmanuel and have a fabulous trending year!

Traveling Catholic style

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

PILGRIMS on the Sea of Galilee

THERE is something about human nature that seems to find the spiritual in the physical.

Much like doubting Thomas, many want to find proof of their faith in things they could actually see, touch and experience.

The Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines knows this well.

It realizes that while many among its flock believe at the touch on faith alone, there are those who want something more, something closer to first-evidence experiences.

One of the avenues by which the Church meets this need is by organizing pilgrimages here and abroad, through groups such as Catholic Travelers.

Catholic Travel head Msgr. Dan Ignacio tells Sunday Biz that pilgrimages help the clergy evangelize and lay-women learn faith.

By elevating them the spiritual places where the saints lived, for instance, and the path that Jesus Christ took from birth in Bethlehem to his crucifixion, they get a better understanding of their faith, Ignacio says.

Ignacio adds that Catholic Travel's pilgrimages include a chaplain to guide them through the historical and religious significance of the places in their itinerary.

One of the popular pilgrimages is the 15-day journey with the Santo Nino, that takes pilgrims from Rome to visit the Vatican, to Assisi and Florence to Italy before going to Barcelona, Spain, then on to London, Fatima and to Lisbon, Portugal, the birthplace of St. Anthony of Padua.

Another popular tour is the Holyland Experience's first site visit to 21 days. Pilgrims travel from Barcelona to Rhodes, Yellowknife, Rome, Fatima, Lisbon, Rome, Florence and Milan.

The tour includes a stop in the Holy Land tour, which many Catholics consider to be a must in their lifetime.

The itinerary includes stops in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Caesarea, Haifa, Tiberias, Capernaum, Cana, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, Quumran, Jerusalem and Bethlehem—places that figured prominently in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

"By seeing how Jesus Christ lived among people in main, pilgrims feel the supernatural his divinity," Ignacio says.

Catholic Travel has been bringing pilgrims to these and other places since 1984, upon the initiative of Bishop Cardinal Sin, former Archbishop of Manila.

After more than 40 years, Catholic Travel has first visited and expanded its itineraries.

The new scheduled pilgrimages include one that will trace the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus.

The trip will include stops in Paris, Lourdes, Loyola, Avila, Barcelona, Nice, Pisa, Florence and Rome.

The Catholic Travel's services not only include the development of the itinerary, but also the visa and ticketing arrangements.

All the interested pilgrim has to do is to sign up for the tour and pay the tour fee, which varies according to the itinerary, but it usually less than the fees quoted by commercial travel agencies.

Not only do they get to see some of the most beautiful places the world has to offer, they also ensure their pride in being Roman Catholics as a bonus. (For more information, call Catholic Travel Inc. at 523-2525)

New book highlights risk and rewards . . .

From page B1

and provided templates to stay inspired in achievers, to benefit and to learn.

Couples Inc. Business celebrates 20 partners in life who've successfully created and still create in the blessed boundaries of love and work together. These couples are making conscious choices in their own self-realization, in their partners and in their communities. The featured couples talk about the hard times, missed opportunities and failures.

And experiences love with the reality that there are no more bonded, love-supporting one domain from the Art of Sex. But there, love and work is a venue that moves regularly to what the divide between the personal and the professional, home from business.

If you're thinking of going into business or starting one with the significant other, grab a copy of the upcoming book. It may spare you from a lot of aggravation or intolerance you to a "Do-

KING JAMES AUCTION
"Bid Where Winners Deliver"
We Buy or Accept Consignment
HOUSEHOLD & OFFICE FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENTS, VEHICLES, STORE INVENTORIES, HARDWARE ITEMS, CLOTHING, RESTAURANT & HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT, HOTEL FURNISHING, INDUSTRIES, FACILITIES & BANK REPOSS.
Hotline! (02) 840-4561 (02) 521-3555 (02) 521-3571

First thematic convention center launched in Palawan

PUERTO Princesa, Palawan—Palawan's now the newest convention destination in the country, following the standard setting convention venues is The Legend Hotel Palawan's newest, joined the Philippine Convention Center), the upscale extravagant of form and function, the Palawan Convention Center stands out as one of the top business facilities north to Palawan and the entire country.

Nestled within a tropical-inspired park that boasts lush greenery and a bridge that resembles a small lagoon, it is the first thematic convention center in the country.

Perched on a two-hectare property, the center is connected to the adjacent Legend Hotel Palawan's 5-star hotel by a walkway.

Palawan is every bit the paradise it is touted to be. It is home to a breathtaking expanse of tropical rainforests and marine wilderness, as well as exotic flora and fauna. While this abundance of natural beauty has attracted its share of ecotourists, turning new economic opportunities have sprung up in the region, making it an ideal emerging ground for investments.

The main building and annex of The Legend Hotel Palawan host a total of 103 rooms, aside from the executive suite, there are also three junior suites, 18 deluxe rooms, 21 premium rooms, 51 standard rooms. All of which is specially designed for physically challenged guests—and seven family rooms.

All rooms are equipped with cable TV, an IDD/NDD telephone system, an electronic lockable control panel, hot and cold mini-bar, air-conditioning unit, bathroom with premium control and electronic fire detection and prevention system.

The Legend Hotel Palawan epitomizes what quality true conference and event hosting is all about. It brings together a diverse location, comfort and convenience to create an environment that is exactly what convention groups are looking for.

BODEGA SALE IN BULACAN
ON SAT. & SUN. (JAN. 29 & 30, '05) ONLY
AT WAREHOUSE #2 BULACAN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ZONE, MALIWALO, BALAGTAS, BULACAN

PSBank
US Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT
Earn as high as 3.5%

	$1,000 to $9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 & up
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.

VICTORIAS

NOTICE
OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To All Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual Stockholders' Meeting** of **Victorias Milling Company, Inc.** previously scheduled on **1 March 2005**, has been postponed by the Board of Directors to **1 April 2005 at 9:00 in the morning.**

Formal notice and agenda for the meeting shall be published later.

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GARBONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

Sunday BIZ

Risks, rewards in 'copreneurship'

By Anatalio R. Magbiray
Cook Diaries

THE OBLIGATE buzzword in this new volume of case studies in successful business ventures is copreneurship, or couple entrepreneurship. The term—pervasive across Time Magazine of the world's couple and entrepreneur and was first voiced by the husband and wife team of Bennett and Hannah in 1984.

Copreneurs share ownership, management and responsibility for their business on full-time positions.

They are different from other types of entrepreneurs in that they operate a joint venture. One partner may have more of the entrepreneurial spirit than the other partner, but they both are equally committed to the enterprise as owners and managers, and to each other as lovers and parents.

There's the theory anyway and the new book, Couples in Business: Devotees, Lovers, Relations (Chronicle Books) published by the Small Enterprise Development Foundation) that uses 20 Filipino couples whose daily lives are intertwined by mixing a family and forming a business. The good news is that they now boast of flourishing enterprises.

You might think it's the easiest couple on Earth can be a serious juggle between two competing priorities—home and work—on a daily basis. Add the fact that the two partners are on each other's hair and serves 24 hours a day and co-preneurship can be a recipe for personal (as well as professional) disaster for the unprepared.

Sadly, there is no preparation for the enterprising couple. One day, the boyfriend and wife are getting by avoiding the stiff while the next day they are on the street now dealing with irregular customers and worrying that their kids may not have done their homework or won't have yet pass dinner time.

The thing is that entrepreneurial couples are not the type of people who like doing a "pretty good job." They are the kind of people who want to excel, husbands and wives who are not afraid to pursue meaningful, demanding dreams. And they like "hanging it all."

Because many of these couples have no models to guide them, they tend to develop new models for themselves in running the couple business. Many entrepreneurial couples continue to divide home responsibilities along traditional gender lines.

The men and women in Couples in Business meet the competing demands of love and work by relying on traditional models of masculinity and femininity. "Dan is, rather than rewrite the conceptual boundary existing between work and home, they rely on a conceptual framework based on gender differences to define their roles within the domains of love and work. In the end, they decide upon a pro-

"Half of me wants to escape, and make a few strokes. The other half knows that I only have a few hours to spare, and it's back to work, back to reality."

Have the best of both worlds at Ayala Greenfield Estates. An exclusive residential community far enough from the big city, near enough to stay connected. If you've been dreaming of playing golf everyday, this is your place. A quick drive from Alabang will take you to a championship Nicklaus golf course designed by world-renowned golfer Jack Nicklaus, Jr. With a seasonal activation fee, each lot automatically entitles you to a share at the Golf & Leisure Club where the rest of the family can also indulge in modern amenities. **Ayala Greenfield Estates. Getting away has never been this close.**

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

an AYALA South Community

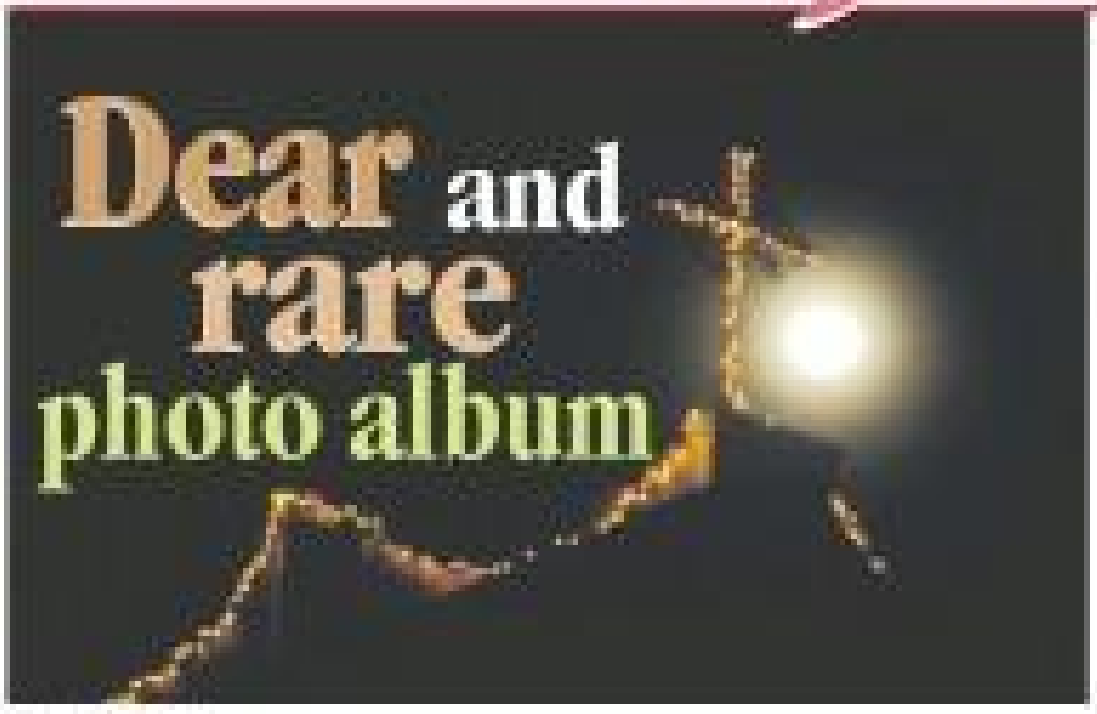
Interested? Call: 848-5000 • email: ayala-salesgaya@aland.com.ph • website: www.ayalaland.com.ph

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1994

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Dear and rare photo album



PHOTOS by Dick Ibañez

By Antonio G. Lilles
Chief Editor

THE CAMERA Club of the Philippines' first and very own coffee-table book is now available to the general public.

Ever since I joined the club in 1990, older members had been dreaming about not very rare but elegant photo book showcasing our very own work.

Although the membership was happy with some publications of the best images by members, it continued to harbor the dream of an honest to goodness coffee table book of international caliber.

But we were hampered by difficulties in collecting materials, finding funding or sponsorship, and looking for a designer-cum-lay-out-ing consultant.

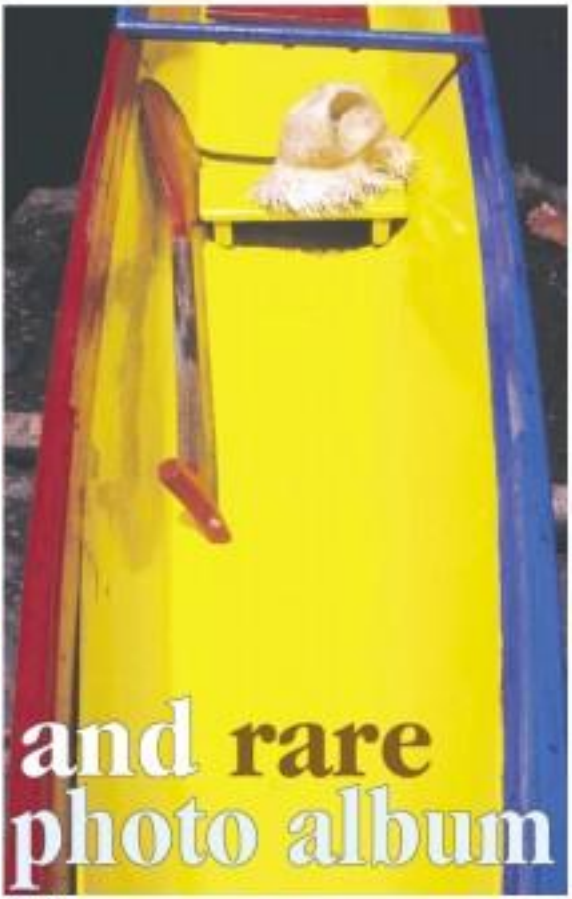
The book of our dreams is a book funded by the membership. One that was edited, designed and published by members and [illegible]

AT THE BOOK launch last December: Camera Club president Raul Monsalve for 2005, Pictorial Life for 2004, Lex Media president Dennis Valdes and vice president Alex Reyes, CCP Book project director Tony Lilles

BY Tony Lilles

Dear and rare photo album

The Camera Club of the Philippines collects 75 years of beautiful images in a coffee-table book



BY Jaime Bulosan

From page B1

back.

We could cite publications that were either sponsored or supported by advertisers, who eventually took the credit and exerted editorial control over the publishers. Thus, quality was compromised.

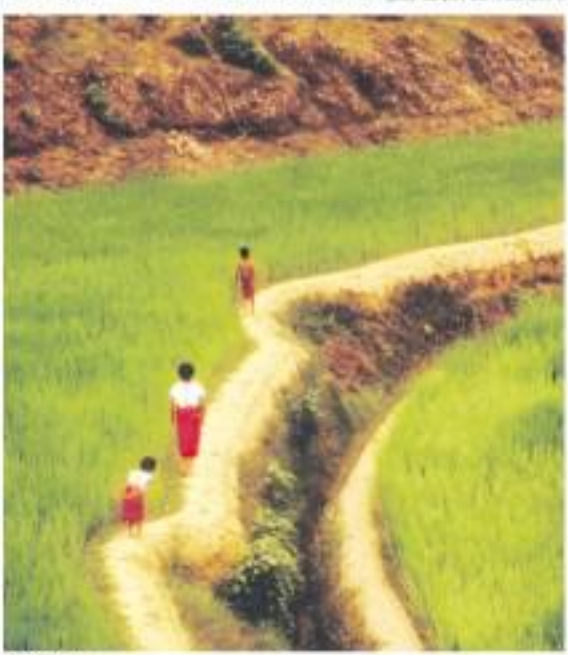
A year after our 75th anniversary, a new printing company called Lex Media, a division of the Print Time Group in Binangonan, Laguna, opened. With the latest, cutting-edge printing technology available, today, this company locally printed the book of our dreams in the quality and price that rivaled those of Singapore's and Hong Kong's.

Thanks to the images collected in our archives for the 75th anniversary project last year, we were able to achieve in four months what, I am told, would have normally taken a year to produce. Plus, unusual in the Philippines, relying on a local printing company and avoiding the added costs in duty had we printed abroad.

This book makes a great coffee-table book for your friends, a source of pride for our country. Anyone into photography must make this book a part of his collection.

The book has 304 pages of photographs with a foreword by founding member Jaime Zobel de Ayala. It is edited by Franco Pintacasi, with the duo's "History" section by Bobby Reyes and updated by outgoing club president Lito Quintel. Production and layout was done by members Raul Unciano of Photographic Light Images.

The copies are limited, so the book is bound to be a collector's item. The soft-bound copies go for P1,500 each while the hardbound copies, for P2,500. Available at Booksale outlets and Dusit Thani stores in Ilhem Makati. Call 8942067.



BY Albert Cho

BY Quincy Castillo

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Bora your body!
The Sexy Chef delivers South Beach diet meals!

DAVE Hebreson, Tupperware group president for Latin America and Asia

Top this!

Tupperware unleashes the wave of the future —GoFlex!

By Alice T. Vergara

YOUTHE all familiar with such convenient and space-saving 20th-century devices as the folding umbrella and the collapsible bag. But have you ever come across a reusable and expandable food-container made of heavy-duty plastic that's rigid yet flexible enough to assume several sizes in a matter of seconds?

It took Tupperware Corp., the world's leading manufacturer and direct seller of premium plastic containers, almost three years of intensive R and D to come up with one. Its what was dubbed as the event's biggest Tupperware "party" in Asia, the Orlando-based company known for distributing its innovative products by encouraging its direct sellers to throw parties, launched recently GoFlex! at the Shw Asia Bar in Singapore.

"GoFlex! is innovative as its name implies," says Dave Hebreson, Tupperware group president for Latin America and Asia Pacific. "Go means on the go, and flex means flexible not only in how it behaves but in how consumers use it."

Together with David Kuncoro, Tupperware VP for engineering and product development, Hebreson led regional executives in introducing and explaining to members of the media the company's latest innovation that's said to border on the revolutionary.

If plastic was hailed as one of the top inventions of the 20th century, GoFlex! is said to take the development to the next level. After all, Tupperware started it all when it pioneered and introduced products for the home made of processed polyethylene more than 50 years ago. It has continued to expand and set trends ever since, growing into a $1.2 billion multinational company with a global presence that spans almost 100 countries.

In the Philippines alone, Tupperware is estimated to benefit 35,000 families through the business generated by its 66,000-strong sales force. Filipinos may not match the purchasing power of Japanese or Australians, but the country posted one of the biggest growth rates within the region last year at 24 percent.

This comes as no surprise despite competition posed by manufacturers of cheap imitations. One of Tupperware's strengths, says Hebreson, is its ability to anticipate and respond to market needs.

Thus, it offers lifestyle-related products exclusively to certain market segments. In India, for instance, the company has introduced a mantra keeper. Of course, Koreans will find little use for such a product, so Tupperware instead came up with a kimchi keeper. In the Philippines, tableware made of break-resistant and elegant-looking melamine is doing well among party-loving Filipinos.

Now and handy

While growth remains almost flat in North America and Europe, not a few Tupperware officials in Asia Pacific are looking forward to further gains in 2005. They're pinning their hopes on the publicity and increased business activity GoFlex! is expected to generate in the region.

DAVID Kuncoro, Tupperware VP for engineering and product development.

Top this!

POPPING! Gaffer is as easy as one, two, three, four.

"Gaffer is new. It's handy and it's practical," says Jennifer Jean Bautista, president of Tupperware Philippines Inc. "I'm pretty sure this will do well with Filipinos since they really embrace innovations."

Each round container is priced at P499 and comes with an ice and water tight lid to keep food fresh and prevent stains and grease from making a mess of your backpack or leaving an unpleasant odor behind. Gaffer will be available locally starting February in four colors—Blueberry Bliss, Viscount, Hot Pepper and Pearly.

"What it's for, Gaffer is a microwaveable bowl, but since it's also stackable ... It's also shaped—container (which can easily double as cup) feature. Its ability to expand to three different heights enables the user to pack in a substantial 950 ml of food. That's very useful a lot of adults at my factory."

As the same time, those on South Beach can control portions by making food storage easier on the size of the containers, and vice versa. Of course, the profits the serving, the better for the diet.

And since it can be flattened before and after every use, Filipinos will find Gaffer ideal to take to games. How come? Gaffer it's compact enough to fit inside a bag or even under a jacket (as Habonon demonstrated), those who love to take home food (or not a few Filipinos) are aware to their time after helping themselves to that food bunch serving or we have to reach counters to pay up at a restaurant's station. That's one load off the frazzled host.

"Children think it's cool," adds Habonon. Apart from today's consumers, Tupperware is courting products for tomorrow's consumers as well. Said Jennifer's consumers as well. Said Jennifer's kids."

Tupperware, he adds, want products that "renew." In other words, that demand continues that are flexible, tactile and attractive. Gaffer is certainly one product they won't leave behind in school or in the toilet, as it can be readily collapsed and slipped into tote bags.

Gaffer isn't built for the microwave, says Bautista, but it's freezer- and dishwasher-safe. The best part of it can be stacked on top of a dishwasher in flattened form like an ordinary plate. Better, of course, if it's air and it's to store grassy food such as lettuce or potatoes or sticky desserts like ube, then it's best to opened your Gaffer before nesting and on the stands. Or better yet, you can wash it the classic, old-fashioned way with dish-washing soap and sponge.

SLIP it in your bag and go.

High-tech take-out box

Gaffer!, Bautista adds, is Tupperware's latest attempt at redefining food-storage through designs, innovation and technology. As long as technology is simple but smart, it need not be complex for it to be able to produce a good product.

"When we began working on this project," says Bautista, "we identified with the classic Chinese take-out box as an inspiration. In fact, we've probably thought of used-to-discard almost every type of packaging as a collapsed and foldable."

It was a tedious process that involved not only people at the Tupperware headquarters in Orlando, but also its entire design and manufacturing teams the world over. Even the company's materials suppliers were kept involved.

They were, after all, not only tasked to produce an innovative product that works, they were also under pressure to produce a practical, user-friendly product that's designed to last a lifetime. That's one of Tupperware's time-honored promises to ensure customer loyalty and satisfaction.

Bautista and his team drew par Gaffer! on a series of candidly interviewing Tupperware's in-house home economists.

"The women assure that the product not only perfect in terms of statistically and how it was molded," he says. "Just what it means that it performs to its true of how the user interacts with it to make sure that it serves its purpose."

But whether Tupperware's loyal and potential patrons like it or not, they're bound to be amazed with the brand's latest offering. It's a bit early to say if it will create a demand for similar products in the future, but company executives are confident enough to admit that they're working on a number of concepts can expandable water jug for gym buffs it could be next! Stay plan to touch in the near future.

As for Gaffer!, making it as one of the top inventions that changed the lives of people in the 21st century, only time will tell.

Email the author at evangco@inquirer.com.ph

TUPPERWARE'S Philippine team—Jean de Jesus-Bautista, president of Tupperware Philippines, with, from left, Jolie Chan, regional sales director (Metro Manila, Palawan and Northern Mindanao); Yvette Navarro, national sales director; Rowilyn Fajardo, product manager; Ria Paz, regional sales director (Mindanao); Evelyn Tabangay, regional sales director (Visayas and Southern Luzon); Vila Villaruel, regional sales director (Northern Luzon) and Maribel Godico, market director.

Prizes and promos for supercenter opening

MAGIC! Tuesday Godio, Rockefeller general manager; Marie Angel Marcar marketing; Jennifer Diaz, Mia Philippines waiter; Tarnee Photo Scipio Jr., Mia Philippines Earth; Nadia Carroll-Mia Philippines bar; Bob Plank, Do it Best consultant and Willy Co, Handyman president

PATRICIO PEREZ of the new Robinsons Place on Pioneer Street, Edsa, Mandaluyong City, shopping extravaganza gets a big boost.

Advancing the concept of mix-use retailing, the sprawling 31,000-sq.m. three-level structure will host some 200 shops and stores on the first two levels, while the third level houses an appliance center, "power-tenants" and the Robinsons Movieworld.

The new mall also hosts the three premiere stores of the Robinsons-Metcal tie-up—Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supercenter and Handyman Do-It-Center.

Located on the second level, the new Robinsons Department Store offers an exciting range of merchandise and the modern comforts of department store shopping especially for those on the lookout for great buys.

Jennifer Galicia is what Robinsons Department Store refers to as shoppers, and the Pioneer outlet showcases a mix of apparel, shoes, bags and accessories from popular brands and from the store's private labels—Julia, Julia Plus, Liberty, Portside, Stylista, 8+Active, All About Kidsand3+Company. It also carries a wide range of home accessories, garment care items, personal care items like cosmetics and beauty products, toys and gift items, and school and office supplies.

In the mall's first level is the new 6,000-sq.m. Supercenter for groceries, household consumables, pet care, toys, supermarket, appliance store, grocery and pharmacy in one look.

"Shops are very busy and they are looking for a format that can provide them with ultimate convenience, where everything they need is under one roof," explains Randy Gumtay Robinsons Supercenter Group general manager.

Meanwhile, Handyman expands its reach to bring to the public one more complete range of items that homeowners need but also essential supplies for the thriving real estate and construction industries in Metro Manila. Do It Better Along the streets of Edsa, it is the most modern mall-based one-stop hardware and home improvement shop.

Conceptualized as a hardware center, the product inventory at the Handyman Do It Center goes beyond household needs to building and maintaining supplies. There are power tools, paint and painting implements, tiles, automotive and lifestyle items such as decor and accents, indoor and outdoor furniture and kitchen ware, hardware and kitchen ware, electrical and automotive products, and other categories.

Randyman Do It Center also offers specialized services to customers like Computerized Paint Mixing for its exclusive Do It Best paint brand, a wood shop for made-to-order furniture, and garage door replacement parts.

As a grand opening treat, the chain stores have prepared special discounts promos. Robinsons Department Store has a weekly raffle where gift certificates and mobile phones are given away.

For the opening of Robinsons Supercenter, purchase appliances every week will be raffled off, with a Rotor Instrumentarie Showcase as grand prize. There are also regular "crazy sales" and "gift with purchase" promos.

Finally, Randyman Do It Center raffles off five 14" color TV sets with remote with a one-year operator system. These, plus a chance to win a brand new Kia Sera Vica in a raffle co-sponsored by Philips Lighting products.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Past-perfect bridal visions

Vintage-inspired wedding gowns were the norm in 'Bridal Inspiration,' the fashion show that capped the two-day 'Wedding March'

EFREM Crespo, contemporary

JC Rosales, contemporary

Text by Alice T. Reyes
Photos by Karl Santiaduig

TWELVE of the country's leading couturiers drew inspiration from bygone decades spanning the 1920s to the 1980s to come up with their individual takes on the modern wedding gowns.

Vintage-inspired creations and more contemporary pieces by such names as Jaggie Gaston, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Percival Kamalig, Pitoy dela Rosa, Rhett Guarga, Loreto, Frederick Peralta, Audrey Stevens, Eric Pineda, R. Barretto and Eddie Bautista were featured last Sunday in "The Bridal Inspiration."

The bridals were showed by Raymond Villanueva capped off "Wedding March," a two-day workshop at the SM East organized and sponsored by bizcomm Studio Librado and chef Medea Mauro. Leading makeup artist Dench Reyes and the team did the models' hair and makeup, and Tony Rodriguez created the flowers.

Despite their attempts to stay true to looks from the past, the designers were still able to infuse their trademark styles into their respective creations. Otherwise, doing an exact replica from a years-ago era, as Cambie showed later, would have refuted their poetic interpretations.

Favorite decade

Cambie, for instance, did a pair of gowns with elements that harked back to his favorite decade: the 1950s. Considered by many as the golden age of couture, it was also during this decade when Audrey Hepburn, the designer's virtual muse, reigned supreme wearing not Givenchy number after another.

Our New Home In Shangri-La Plaza

Tiffany & Co. has relocated and proudly opens its doors on the second floor of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall Wing.

Since 1837, Tiffany has captivated hearts with designs of elegance and grace. Please visit our new store soon.

TIFFANY & CO.

JOJIE Lloren, contemporary

FREDERICK Peralta, contemporary

PATNICE Ranov-Diaz, 1920s

EDDIE Baldivia, 1980s

EDDIE Baldivia, contemporary

LORETTO, contemporary

Past-perfect bridal visions

PATNICE Ranov-Diaz, contemporary

ANTHONY Navarro, 1950s

RAGS Lucero, contemporary

AUGGIE Cordero, 1950s

To continue G3

Senior models Abbygale Arenas and Apples Abreto wore similar coral gowns made of satin in pale pink and cream, respectively. Gardens updated the look by making the skirts—one a princess-cut number, the other a handkerchief—softer to give them a more "South Jersey Parker" feel. Both gowns were partially ruched, lifted with either Calypso or Chantilly lace on bodices and hints of breakaway on skirts.

Females and menswear designer Hooman also derived ideas from the 1950s for their respective retro-inspired pieces.

Peralta did away with his penchant for embellishment in favor of a surprisingly understated strapless strapless cut number in Mikado silk with a pink or Baja and hints of breakaway on the bodice.

He reserved the drama for real-life lovers G Tingal and her Caucasian boyfriend, who wore a beige cutaway. For his contemporary numbers, the designer came up with eclipse-hugging and fully-sequined chiffon columns.

True to his roots as one of SM's in-house designers, Hooman did a menswear ensemble with a cream jacket and black pants fashioned from shantung. The silhouette was a bit tapered compared to his modern all-black ensemble.

Unsure didn't allow himself to be limited by the austere fashion of the 1940s, a time when fabrics were in short supply because of the war. On the contrary, it enabled him to show his expertise in tailoring to create tailcoat-style collar dress gray number made of duchess satin with a ribbon detail at the back.

In lieu of a voluminous train, the designer fashioned a pair of collars and extended overlaps for visual drama. A tufted pillbox hat took the place of a veil, while a pair of darker vines on the bodice was actually the reverse side of the fabric.

He later showed another close-to-the-body number in the contemporary portion that emphasized shape instead of skin. The two-piece outfit consisted of a sweetheart bustier with an exaggerated mandarin collar and a corset beaded chiffon skirt.

Peralta tried to capture the feel of the 1930s in a flowing satin gown with lacy cap sleeves, veil and embroidered and sweetheart tulle to overskirt. Apart from the gown, the designer also showed his expertise in men's apparel by fashioning an off-white cropped jacket and black pants.

The best for, however, was anything but vintage, as Peralta had it cut to the skill lines before the dress to buy out at Emmanuelle Zegna. He was especially inspired by the satin pieces worn by his paternal grandparents during their Commonwealth period wedding.

Antique feel

Ranov-Diaz and De la Rosa came up with their respective versions of a 1920s wedding gown. For a change, the former eschewed her preference for dressmakers and the satin-shod look with a soft, empire-cut chiffon overlayer wrapped in lace.

She chose beige over white lace for a more antique feel. Since the period produced silhouettes that were cut away from the body, she draped her gown with a sheer overlay coat with short, loose sleeves that extended all the way to the back. Far from looking outmoded, however, the gown captured the designer's trademark romantic look.

PLDT

Isangkonekta ng mas mura!

I-connect Ang Buong Barangay! Bahit Ang Buong Kapitbahay!
Bukid May Goldmine Ka Sa Saya At Cash Credits!
Up To P4 Million To Be Won!

PLDT

"Landline Mo, Goldmine Ko!"

How to Goldmine Your Landline:

1. Home or open a all system and new residential PLDT postpaid and Telesulit subscribers
2. To join, subscribers must register and come at any PLDT Business Office or become an official goldmine agent.
3. For every approved and installed telephone subscription that is credited to its account, the goldmine agent receives the following:

One (1) Unit Subscriber	Five Hundred Pesos and Cash Equivalent and Incentives	Five Hundred Pesos and Cash Equivalent and Incentives
Five (5) unit Subscribers	Free PLDT points of 500 (P2.5 PLDT points=1 Peso) for TLP	One (1) unit of Solar Powered Cordless Telephone (Value P2,500.00)
Telesulit Subscriber	Free PLDT points of 5 points=1 peso) Telesulit line	Free P100 worth of load for existing Telesulit line

Note: Credits should not be automatically be credited to the account of the installation Agent and shall expire after one (1) month. Unused credits should not be carried over to the succeeding months.

4. Accepted by the service agent on the record of the service center, Goldmine Agents should have at least fifty (50) approved and accepted subscriptions. Six qualified goldmine Agents will be ranked according to the most number of approved applications and are awarded the following:

Category	Cash Prize (in P)
Seventh Category (Top 7 - 8)	Php 10,000
Sixth Category (Top 5 - 6)	Php 15,000
Fifth Category (Top 4 - 5)	Php 20,000
Fourth Category (Top 3 - 4)	Php 25,000
Third Category (Top 2 - 3)	Php 30,000
Second Category (Top 1 - 2)	Php 40,000
Number 1 Category (Top 1)	Php 50,000
Grand Champion (Top 1)	Php 1,000,000

1. Starting period is from January 15, 2001 to May 15, 2001. Deadline for submission of Goldmine with complete requirements is on or before May 15, 2001, 5:00pm.
2. Incomplete requirements submitted at the account of the Goldmine Agents are not considered.
3. The Customer must signify in the application that he/she is a Goldmine Agent's subscriber.
4. Goldmine Agents or the account of the applicant must pass a site survey. PLDT will inform availability of service upon application by making an official visit to the subscriber. PLDT will install the line within five (5) days from receipt of payment. An subscription not covered by an installation request is granted. The connection costs of P2,500 apply.
5. Standard options of PLDT as Caller and Call Forwarding (CF). PLDT reserves the right to disqualify any Goldmine Agent from the Program if any violation or unauthorized use resulting such as subscription, credit card, subscriber number scheme and of fraud.

See Store for details. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102 Series of 2001

PLDT

GO TO YOUR NEAREST PLDT BUSINESS CENTER TO REGISTER AS AN AGENT

Abangan!

JC Buenaña, 1970s

ERIC Pineda, 1930s

Past-perfect bridal visions

Despite the loose silhouette reminiscent of the era, Su Ilona also managed to come up with a gown that exudes femininity. Its sweetheart neckline softened the gown's plunging neckline while wee sleeves mirrored at the back, with three tiers of ruffles and cords with bead cadges.

Drama came up with one of the evening's best and most wearable pieces: a spaghetti-strapped powder blue column with ruffles that descended luxuriously from the shirt's waist to its hem. The gown is a timeless gem that's anything but fussy and easy to construct.

Rocella, who's also famous for superb tailoring and structured lines, did clusters of sweet-as-corn vintage. His 1950s-inspired ivory wedding gown was his take on Hollywood: a bias-cut, halter-necked number made of duchess satin. The gowns were solid, single-horizontal cuts.

Oddly enough, he had to travel two decades earlier to come up with his contemporary ensemble: a floral-printed, halter dress made of cotton duces cut below the knee that reminded us of Gwyneth Paltrow's 1950s character in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

True enough, the designer wound with the idea of lower who draped and got married in the Italian countryside. Except for his pair of Chuck Taylors, however, the groom looked just-lifted in a cream five-button suit made of tropical wool. The look's cute, ad-hoc quality (a world of a much-needed respite to creations by some designers who took themselves a bit too seriously).

Showstoppers

Sex that doing so was a sin, especially when it concerned Baldies. The undersexed designer, who can easily give not a dou of the entire designers a run for their money, did those show-stopping pieces that were more proved his versatility and dedication to his craft.

As far as we know, Baldies is the only designer who treats each group shows as if they were his gals. And his recent interviews are different, as he used it as another opportunity to prove how good and driven he was. As they say in pampasik, his every move spelled "success" to the max.

Not content with getting them of the industry's most seasoned mannequins, he hired the services of makeup artist Eric Madrigal and his team to exclusively do their hair and makeup. Again, all of Baldies's efforts weren't in vain.

He came up with a winner in Ilonna Sinsuat's Christian Lacroix-inspired duchess satin number that hurled back to the 1950s. The model hummed it up onstage to the music of Madonna's "Like a Virgin" to what appeared to be a pair of 1950s-like ruffled drawers that were actually made of mini bustles. The rest of her ensemble wrapped in lace that seemed to drip like eyelashes.

Spanish lace was also the dominant material in his other gown, a more contemporary solo-piece with an extended train that drew inspiration from the 1950s. His third gown had a detachable corkscrew train fashioned from dupioni silk and—this time—pouf-upon pouf of Swarovski lace.

Like most of his colleagues, Baldies wisely steered clear of duplicates of wedding gowns from decades past. After all, exacting a costumer is certainly the last thing a successful and discerning bride would want to do while exchanging vows.

E-mail the author at jamespalileo@inquirer.com.ph

MIKE de la Rosa, contemporary

MIKE de la Rosa, 1920s

JOJO Laurel, 1960s

LORETTO, 1970s

FREDERICK Peralta, 1930s

DENDROBIUM with white flowers is a favorite at Rarities.

DANCING Lady is a popular Oncidium orchid.

HORNTYPE Oncidium is a recently hybrid.

Living on in an orchid park

By Tina F. Giron
Photos by Bally Lunes

Manila's biggest water reservoir is now adorned with beautiful flowers from the collection of Violy Drilon, the Senate president's late wife

ONCE these orchids bloom, this will be the most beautiful part of the park."

This was the opening remark of Sen. Franklin Drilon at the groundbreaking rites of The Orchidarium at La Mesa Dam Ecopark in Novaliches. It's one of the latest projects of Rotary Balikatan of ABS-CBN Foundation, this time in partnership with the Philippine Orchid Society.

Sen. Drilon may not know the difference between an orchid and a fern, but there were orchids he was so in love among the 4,000 or so species of mostly pink-and-red orchids in the park. He donated the orchids, the entire collection of his late wife Violy, a lawyer who loved orchids to no end.

She was one of the most committed members of the Philippine Orchid Society (POS), and her orchid garden at the Drilon residence in Greenhills was known to other collectors as her pride and sanctuary. We know that her only too well, having written about Violy's obsession with orchids for the newspapers and the gardeners' magazines.

Being there at the formal launch of the orchid park last Sunday was for us a rewinding down memory lane. Those familiar-looking orchids reminded us of the wonderful times we spent many years ago, showing about orchid society members Violy's garden.

At the center of that garden, we remember vividly, was a pot full of Dendrobium hybrids named after her by a Thai breeder. The orchids had beautiful light green flowers on arching stems. All around us were hundreds of other flowering Dendrobium orchids which she brought home from her travels and purchased from local garden centers.

She was, however, president of the huge slump of striking, rotating species mounted on a wonderful trunk. By the standard, it was a palm-swinging specimen of a prickly tree-like plant surrounded by several offsprings that bloomed at the same time during the flowering season.

VIOLY Drilon's color-fill Dendrobium bloom in their own home at La Mesa orchidarium.

SENATOR Franklin Drilon handpicked orchids from the collection of his late wife Violy in ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez during formal rites at The Orchidarium

Pleasant surprise

After almost 10 years, it was thus a pleasant surprise to see again the same orchids and their offshoots from the late collector's orchids. There were blooming Dendrobiums covering the trunks of the trees, as well as duffs/beds.

Although the other plants, especially the native species, are still adjusting and recovering from the shock of being transplanted to their new environment, they're none the worse for wear. New roots are starting to sprout out from the base of Dendrobium orchidaceae, angraecums, tree orchids and perennially lilies.

"I known for orchids is what we envision this park to be," said Gina Lopez, the foundation's managing director. She added that the park is now open for visitors, photographers and garden lovers. "Before, it's like seeing orchids among trees and plants. It will be a perfect site for weddings, dinners and other functions."

"Give the orchids another 10 months, and they will transform this park into a flower haven," Domingo said.

La Mesa Dam is Metro Manila's biggest water reservoir and supplies the water needs of residents in the National Capital Region. Rotary Balikatan is currently undertaking a rehabilitation, development and protection project on the 2,700-hectare watershed.

If you have orchids to contribute, call Rotary Balikatan at 4304301 or 4304311.

A WALKWAY is flanked on both sides by orchids from collections of Violy Drilon and POS members.

DENDROBIUM in cattleya gives color to the base of a tall tree.